PLAYERS National/ACC Position Rankings **TEAMS** Century Decade Preseason **RECRUITING** Who's the Best? Top 25/ACC

Lindy's

AMERICA'S LEADING FOOTBALL AUTHORITY

2000 FOOTBALL

Atlantic Coast

Can Jackets Stay Hot?

Tommy's Tigers on the Rise

Volume 14 • LINDY'S ATLANTIC COAST FOOTBALL • 2000

0 74470 02113 1 01
$5.99 U.S./$6.99 CANADA

THE WIDEST 4TH DOOR

*Excludes other GM vehicles.

©2000 GM Corp. All rights reserved. Sierra, GMC and the GMC logo are registered trademarks of General Motors Corporation.

SIERRA

IS HERE.

The GMC Sierra is a full-size pickup that knows how to greet its passengers, and it all starts with extra-wide doors, the widest 4th door opening in its class*. Doors that welcome you into its roomy and spacious interior. An interior with more front headroom and rear legroom* than any other full-size pickup in its class. For more information on this exceptional truck go to www.gmc.com/sierra or call 877-GMC-SIERRA.

USA

36 USC 380
Official Sponsor of the 2000 U.S. Olympic Team

GMC

Do one thing. Do it well.™

Easy to sip.
Now easy to grip.

CANADIAN MIST
CANADIAN MIST
CANADIAN MIST
1.75 LITERS
IMPORTED
CANADIAN MIST
Rare whiskies selected especially for their superior quality, mellow character and excellent bouquet.
40% ALC. BY VOL. (80 PROOF)
DISTILLED AND BLENDED UNDER SUPERVISION OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT
A Product of Canada

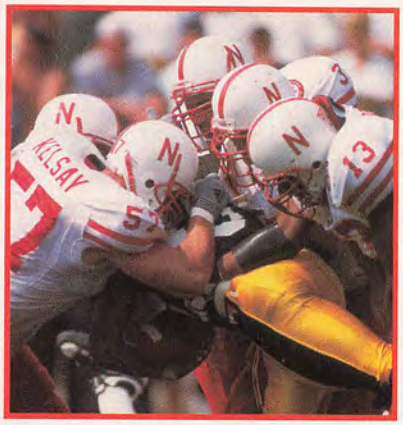
Get ahold of Canadian Mist's new lightweight 1.75-liter bottle. All the smooth, mellow taste in a "gripping" new shape. At around two pounds lighter than a glass bottle, lifting your spirits has never been so easy.

Please enjoy Canadian Mist responsibly. www.canadianmist.com

Imported and Bottled by Brown-Forman Beverages Worldwide, Canadian Whisky, A Blend, 40% Alc. by Volume, Louisville, KY ©2000

CONTENTS

2000



NATIONAL PICKS
begins on page 10

COLLEGE FOOTBALL'S FINEST
begins on page 24

MICHAEL VICK FEATURE
begins on page 54

THE NATION

Top 25: Nebraska's Ready For Some Power Football . . . 10
Ranking All 115 Teams

Lindy's All-Americans *20*
Virginia Tech QB Michael Vick Leads Offense
Wisconsin DB Jamar Fletcher Is Top Defender

Lindy's All-America Checklist 24
Player Ratings & Features
Top Position Groups

Scoping The Nation 44
King Of The Hill Battle Moves To The Orange Bowl
The Bowls
Honors Candidates
Biggest Games Of The Year
by Don Borst

Sidelines 69

National Schedules 84

FEATURES

Keeping The Faith 53
Arkansas State's Nick Gatto Boots Adversity
by Bill Sorrell

The Vick Flick 54
Quick Start Has Virginia Tech QB On The Leading Edge
Sensational Sophomore Quarterbacks Take Over
Florida State's Chris Weinke Isn't Done Yet
by Dennis Dodd

Wanna Be A Head Coach? 64
Get On The Offensive Side Of The Ball
by Dennis Dodd

All His Own 74
Eric Crouch No Longer Has To Share Nebraska QB Job
by Eric Olson

Chasing And Erasing 114
Florida State's Rush Hour Begins At The Ends
by Alan Schmadtke

Security Be Damned 116
Amato Tries To Give N.C. State Football Identity
by Dennis Dodd

Maryland's LaMont Jordan Brings His 'A' Game 118
If Grades Can't Stop Him, How Will Linebackers Do?
by Mike Lurie

THE ACC

Picking The ACC 100
Lindy's All-League Team
The Biggest Games
Top 10 Talent
by Alan Schmadtke

Around The ACC 106

Rating The ACC By Position 108

Year In Review: 1999 110

Decade In Review 111

Century In Review 112

1999 ACC League Leaders 184

RECRUITING

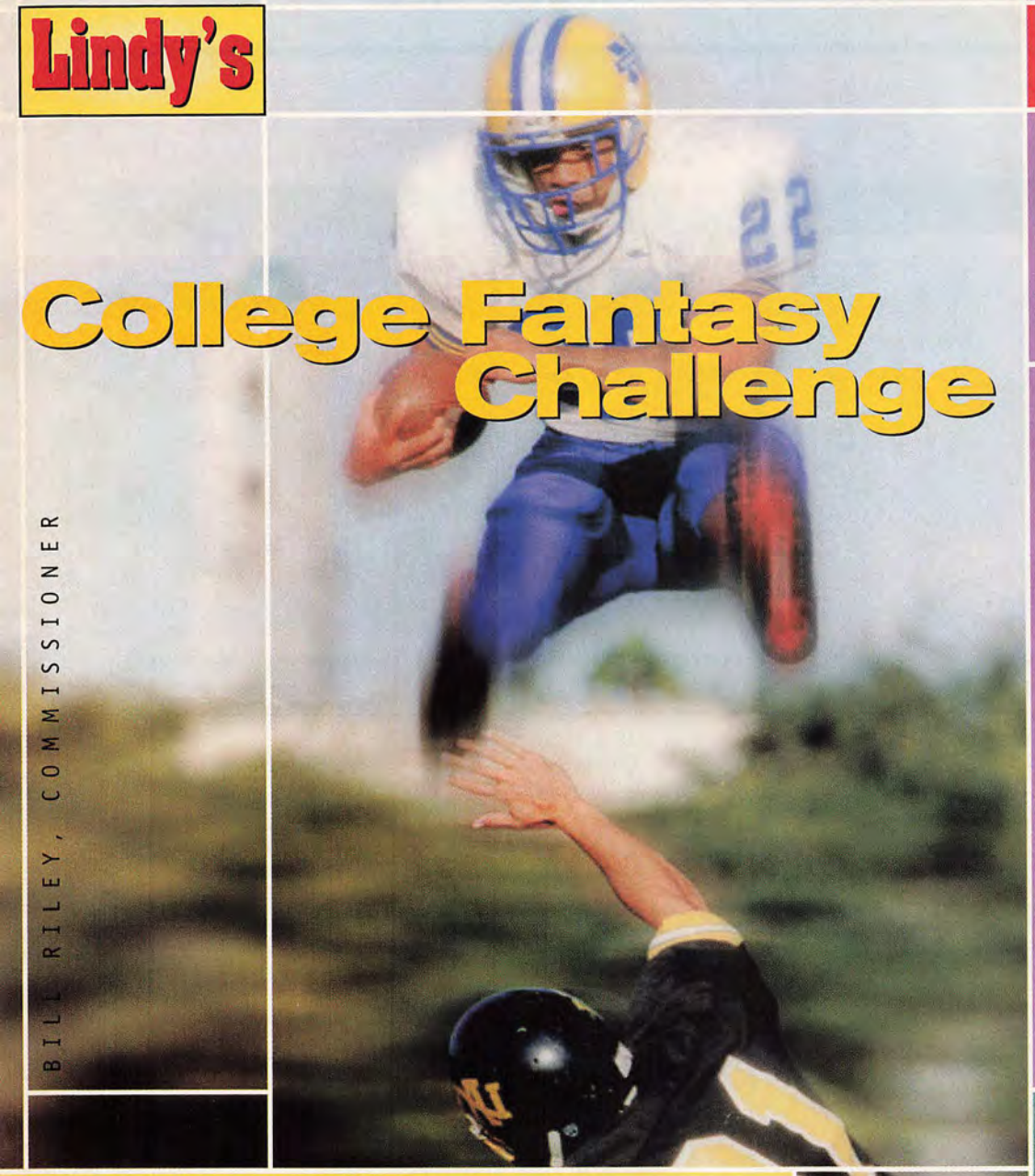
National Recruiting 89
A Look Ahead And Back: Rankings And Lists
by Allen Wallace/*SuperPrep*

ACC Recruiting 97
Georgia Tech A Surging Presence In The South
by Tom Lemming/*Prep Football Report*

Lindy's

College Fantasy Challenge

BILL RILEY, COMMISSIONER



$10,000 first prize

2	$2,500
3	$1,500
4	$1,000
5-10	$500
11-20	$300
21-30	$100

$250 in weekly prizes

Every 2 weeks you can receive standings.
❑ **Receive weekly reports for an extra $10.**
❑ **Weekly prizes beginning week 2.**

Welcome packets mailed detailing all rules, roster confirmation and trading procedures.

Make up to 4 trades per week

Reports mailed every 2 weeks beginning September 11.

$79 entry fee

Buy two entries, get one free.

You can trade up to start of season at no charge. All entries must be postmarked by Sept. 1 and received by Sept. 5

Challenge begins with games played on or after Sept. 2 through Nov. 25.

All trades are free.

Trades can be made:

- by calling (205) 491-3387 Friday from 6-11 pm CST.
- Through the internet site at www.lindyssports.com
- E-mail to abfantasy@juno.com

Trading begins on Sept. 11. No trades the first two weeks of season.

Online registration begins June 1.

Scoring Table	Points
Any touchdown	6
Each reception	1
Each 25 yards passing	1
Each 10 yards receiving	1
Each 10 yards rushing	1

Select one player from each group — mark selection with an "x"

GROUP 1 QUARTERBACKS
❑ Dusty Bonner — Kentucky
❑ Drew Brees — Purdue
❑ Jesse Palmer — Florida
❑ Michael Vick — Virginia Tech
❑ Chris Weinke — Florida State

GROUP 2 QUARTERBACKS
❑ Quincy Carter — Georgia
❑ Josh Heupel — Oklahoma
❑ Kurt Kittner — Illinois
❑ Carson Palmer — USC
❑ Antwaan Randle-El — Indiana

GROUP 3 QUARTERBACKS
❑ Rashard Casey — Penn State
❑ Eric Crouch — Nebraska
❑ Woody Dantzler — Clemson
❑ Ben Leard — Auburn
❑ Marques Tuiasosopo- Washington

GROUP 4 QUARTERBACKS
❑ George Godsey — Georgia Tech
❑ Patrick Ramsey — Tulane
❑ Jonathan Smith — Oregon State
❑ Bart Hendricks — Boise State
❑ Ortega Jenkins — Arizona

GROUP 5 RUNNING BACKS
❑ Travis Henry — Tennessee
❑ Lamont Jordan — Maryland
❑ Anthony Thomas — Michigan
❑ Ladainian Tomlinson — TCU
❑ Ricky Williams — Texas Tech

GROUP 6 RUNNING BACKS
❑ Cedric Cobbs — Arkansas
❑ Earnest Graham — Florida
❑ Deuce McAllister — Mississippi
❑ Hodges Mitchell — Texas
❑ Ken Simonton — Oregon State

GROUP 7 RUNNING BACKS
❑ T.J. Duckett — Michigan State
❑ James Jackson — Miami
❑ Julius Jones — Notre Dame
❑ Travis Minor — Florida State
❑ Derrick Nix — Southern Miss

GROUP 8 RUNNING BACKS
❑ David Allen — Kansas State
❑ Paul Arnold — Washington
❑ Rudi Johnson — Auburn
❑ Eric McCoo — Penn State
❑ Larry Ned — San Diego State

GROUP 9 RUNNING BACKS
❑ Kevin Brown — Wash State
❑ Rocky Harvey — Illinois
❑ Cortlen Johnson — Colorado
❑ Ray Robinson — N.C. State
❑ Deonce Whitaker, San Jose State

GROUP 10 WIDE RECEIVERS
❑ Arnold Jackson — Louisville
❑ Freddie Milons- Alabama
❑ Ken-Yon Rambo — Ohio State
❑ Vinnie Sutherland — Purdue
❑ David Terrell — Michigan

GROUP 11 WIDE RECEIVERS
❑ Kelly Campbell — Georgia Tech
❑ Terrance Edwards — Georgia
❑ Rod Gardner — Clemson
❑ Santana Moss — Miami
❑ Cedric Wilson — Tennessee

GROUP 12 WIDE RECEIVERS
❑ Ronney Daniels — Auburn
❑ Andre Davis — Virginia Tech
❑ Quentin McCord — Kentucky
❑ Marvin Minnis — Florida State
❑ Koren Robinson — N.C. State

COPIES ACCEPTED

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (OPTIONAL) _____

❑ CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ENCLOSED

❑ PLEASE CHARGE: ❑ VISA ❑ MASTER CARD

ACCOUNT # _____ EXP. _____

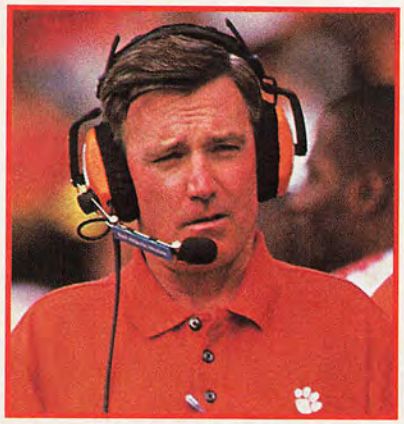
SIGNATURE _____

Make checks payable to:
Lindy's Fantasy Sports, 1015 Forest Circle, Hueytown, AL 35023
Or you can register online with credit card at
www.lindyssports.com

No purchase necessary. If you wish to participate, void of all services, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Lindy's Sports Annuals 2700 Hwy 280, Suite 108, Birmingham, AL 35223 by August 1. Entrants must be 18 years of age or older. Void where prohibited by law. Prize structure is based on 500 paid entries.

CONTENTS

2000



HOT NEW COACHES FEATURE
begins on page 64

SIDELINES
begins on page 69

TEAM STORIES
begin on page 120

THE TEAMS

Clemson 120

Duke 126

East Carolina 178

Florida State 132

Georgia Tech 138

Marshall 182

Maryland 144

North Carolina 150

N.C. State 156

Notre Dame 76

Virginia 162

Virginia Tech 174

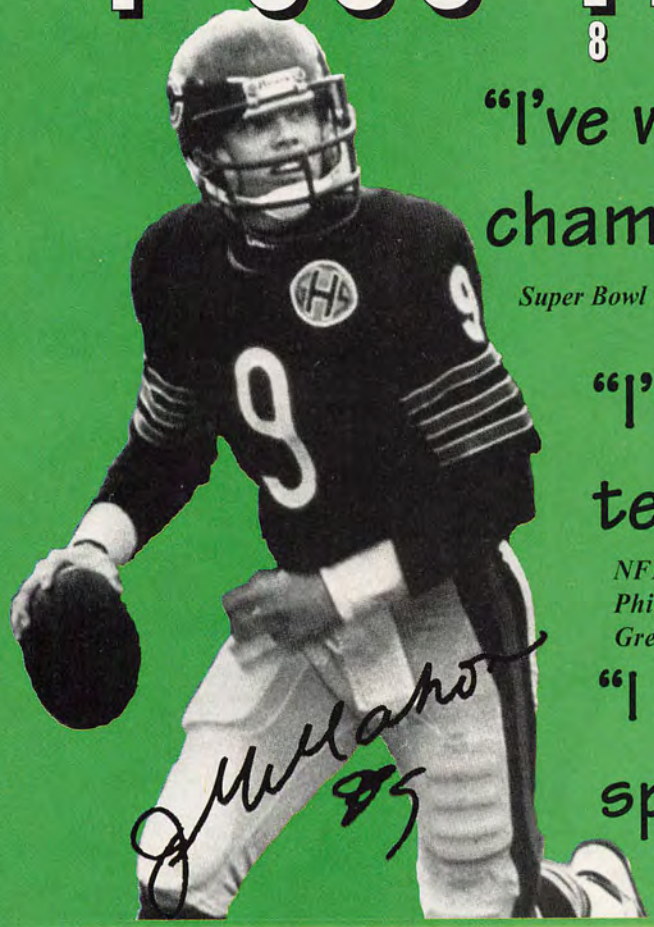
Wake Forest 168

West Virginia 180

English Sports Betting

1-800-TELEBET

8 3 5 3 2 3 8



"I've won a lot of championships."

Super Bowl Champion -- Chicago Bears 1988
Green Bay Packers 1997

"I've played for many teams."

NFL Teams -- Chicago, 1982-88; San Diego, 1989; Philadelphia, 1990-92; Minnesota, 1993; Arizona, 1994; Green Bay, 1995 & 96.

"I only recommend one sportsbook.....ESB"

Free Scores - 1-888-4-SCØRES
zero

Former NFL quarterback and College Football Hall of Famer Jim McMahon is a proud ESB supporter and representative.

Here are few reasons why English Sports Betting is #1:

- Payouts in 24-48 hours guaranteed
- Rated by Dun & Bradstreet
- Audited by a top-5 accounting firm
- Since 1991, our 8th football season
- Licensed to operate in Ireland & Jamaica

For the latest lines, scores, parlay, teaser and fantasy cards and more, visit ESB's website on the Internet at www.telebet.com.

ESB
THE PLAYERS BEST BET

CALL NOW *for your FREE brochure, video & cigar*

"Tell them Jim McMahon sent you and receive a FREE WAGER!"

No obligation - No purchase necessary

Must be 21 years of age. -- International Calls 1-876-953-6233 -- U.S. Alternate 1-800-55-WAGER

English Sports Betting -- 1-800-TELEBET

8 3 5 3 2 3 8

Play F-o-o-t-b-a-l-l

Jim McMahon style with English Sports Betting

"ESB is your best bet this football season!!"

Former NFL quarterback Jim McMahon is a proud ESB supporter and representative

"I've been playing football since I've been in diapers. Football is a passion for millions of Americans. There are some of you who have made wagering on football your passion. You play football Las Vegas Style. Now from the convenience of your home, work or travel worldwide, players like you can call English Sports for scores, lines and most importantly "Action." English Sports offers straight bets, totals, parlays, teasers, futures, propositions, exotics, and fantasy football cards. Small players can earn thousands while testing their skills on which quarterback will pass for the most touchdowns, which running backs and receivers will have the most yards and much more. English Sports Betting also offers Baseball, Hockey, College and Pro Basketball, Horse Racing, Soccer, Boxing, Auto Racing, Tennis and much more. English Sports Betting is like Las Vegas over the telephone. Better yet, it's simpler and strictly confidential. You can play the same day with any major credit card, via express mail or wire. English Sports Betting has been established for eight years with impeccable credentials, has references from major banks and accounting firms and is rated by Dun & Bradstreet. ESB is the most legitimate and legal sports gaming company in the world. English Sports Betting's greatest asset is that when you win, you receive your funds in less than 48 hours guaranteed or you receive an additional 10% on top of your request....That's Guaranteed! Call now and join the tens of thousands that have made English Sports the top-rated sportsbook in the world. Simply call 1-800-TELEBET or 1-800-835-3238, and one of ESB's 500 professional and friendly operators will take your call, answer your questions and send you a free promotional package. Best of all, ESB has paid over $57,000,000 to its clients. I endorse only winners, and ESB is your BEST BET!"

Former NFL quarterback Jim McMahon

Must be 21 years of age -- International Calls 1-876-953-6233 -- U.S. Alternate 1-800-55-WAGER

For the latest lines, scores,and more visit ESB's website on the Internet at www.telebet.com.

Letter From The Publisher

Welcome to the 19th year of Lindy's college football magazines — we're confident that this is our best year yet.

This year's editions have the things you've come to expect from Lindy's — in-depth team previews, player rankings, recruiting breakdowns — and a couple of new additions just to keep things fresh.

Again this season we've teamed up with SportsLine.com to bring you the most comprehensive coverage in print form and on the internet. This is your first taste … but the staff at SportsLine.com will pick up the ball and run all season long, giving you the same great coverage on a daily basis you've come to expect from Lindy's.

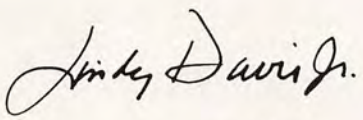
As we head toward the first season of the new millennium, Lindy's looks back over the past 100 years to name the best in the sport through the decade and century … subject to debate, of course.

Fast-break offense rules the day with many of the nation's hot young coaches (see page 64), but we prefer a more traditional tack and are picking Nebraska to win the national title, even if the Huskers get there three yards (and cloud of dust) at a time. It won't be an easy run for Frank Solich's crew as Senior Editor Don Borst points out in our Top 25 preview.

Speaking of fast breaks, has the college game ever seen a player as electrifying as Virginia Tech quarterback Michael Vick? Dennis Dodd takes a colorful look at the sophomore we're picking to win this year's Heisman Trophy.

As always, we're anxious to hear any comments or suggestions that you might have about the magazine. You can write or fax us (information listed below) or visit our expanded web site at www.lindyssports.com.

Thanks for choosing Lindy's and — win or lose — I hope you enjoy the season.



Lindy Davis
Publisher

D.M.D. Publications, Inc.
2700 Highway 280, Suite 108
Birmingham, Alabama 35223-2472
Phone: 205-871-1182
Fax: 205-871-1184

The Audit Bureau

© 2000 D.M.D. Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.
Printed in the U.S.A.

PUBLISHER
J. Lindy Davis, Jr.

SENIOR EDITOR
Don Borst

ASSOCIATE EDITORS
Ben Cook
Anthony Gimino
Shawn O'Neal

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Kay Kuhn

CREATIVE
Norbert Feliciano
Mark B. Moore
Pamela Paugh Romano

PHOTO EDITOR
R.D. Moore

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS
Myers Hyche, Deborah Naramore, Lyn Scarbrough

REGIONAL EDITORS
Rusty Burson, Dennis Dodd, Bruce Hooley, Jimmy Hyams, Eric Olson, Alan Schmadtke

ADVERTISING/MARKETING

Gayl Gloss, Birmingham	205-871-1182
Lyn Scarbrough, Atlanta	770-967-2737
Karaban/Labiner, New York	214-840-0660
Bart Manganiello	
Karaban/Labiner, Chicago	312-236-6345
Jim Peacock, Los Angeles	949-443-0550

NEWSSTAND DIRECTORS
Ralph Perricelli
John Willett
Tony DiBisceglie

OFFICE MANAGER
Kathy Rombough

ACCOUNTING
Barry Jacobs

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
John Akers, Mark Alesia, Robert Anderson, Shelly Anderson, Paul Arnett, John Blanchette, Paola Boivin, Scott Cain, Marcus Carmouche, Guerry Clegg, Jim Cnockaert, Bill Coates, Dan Collins, Bob Condotta, Robert Falkoff, Jeff Faraudo, Al Featherston, Keith Gave, Anthony Gimino, Herb Gould, Steve Guiremand, Rusty Hampton, Greg Hansen, Michael Happy, Craig Harper, Drew Hartsock, Kevin Haskin, Brooks Hatch, David Haugh, Matt Hayes, Bob Hertzel, Donald Hunt, Mike Kahn, Mike Koolbeck, Tom Kubat, Eddy Landreth, Tom Lemming, Mike Lucas, Tom Luicci, Mike Lurie, Ron Maly, John McGrath, Jim Meehan, Ray Melick, Natalie Meisler, Rob Miech, Cody Monk, Dave Moorman, Mike Organ, Jerry Ratcliffe, John Rohde, Rich Scarcella, Richard Scott, Ben Sherman, Mike Smith, Sekou Smith, Tim Stephens, Jimmy Tramel, Allen Wallace, Mark Wangrin, Lindsey Willhite, Robert Wilson, Aaron Yost

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Steve Beyer, Scott Boehm, Tomasso DeRosa/TDSI, Jeff Fishbein, John F. Grieshop/Schwartzman Photography, Doug Holleman, Dennis Hubbard, Kirby Lee/The Sporting Image, Michael Montes, Vincent Muzik, Joe Robbins, Bruce Schwartzman, Jack Sizer, Rocky Widner, John Williamson
AllSport Photography USA: Brian Bahr, Jonathan Daniels, Scott Halleran, Tom Hauck, Harry How, Andy Lyons

Valvoline

For cars with over 75,000 miles, life has just begun.

Introducing Valvoline MaxLife.™ Does your car have over 75,000 miles? Good news. Now there's Valvoline MaxLife, the first motor oil designed specifically for higher-mileage engines. It's specially formulated to condition used seals, help prevent leaks and help keep your engine running for a long, long time. **You can always tell the guys who use Valvoline MaxLife.™**

©2000 The Valvoline Company. www.valvoline.com

NATIONAL PICKS

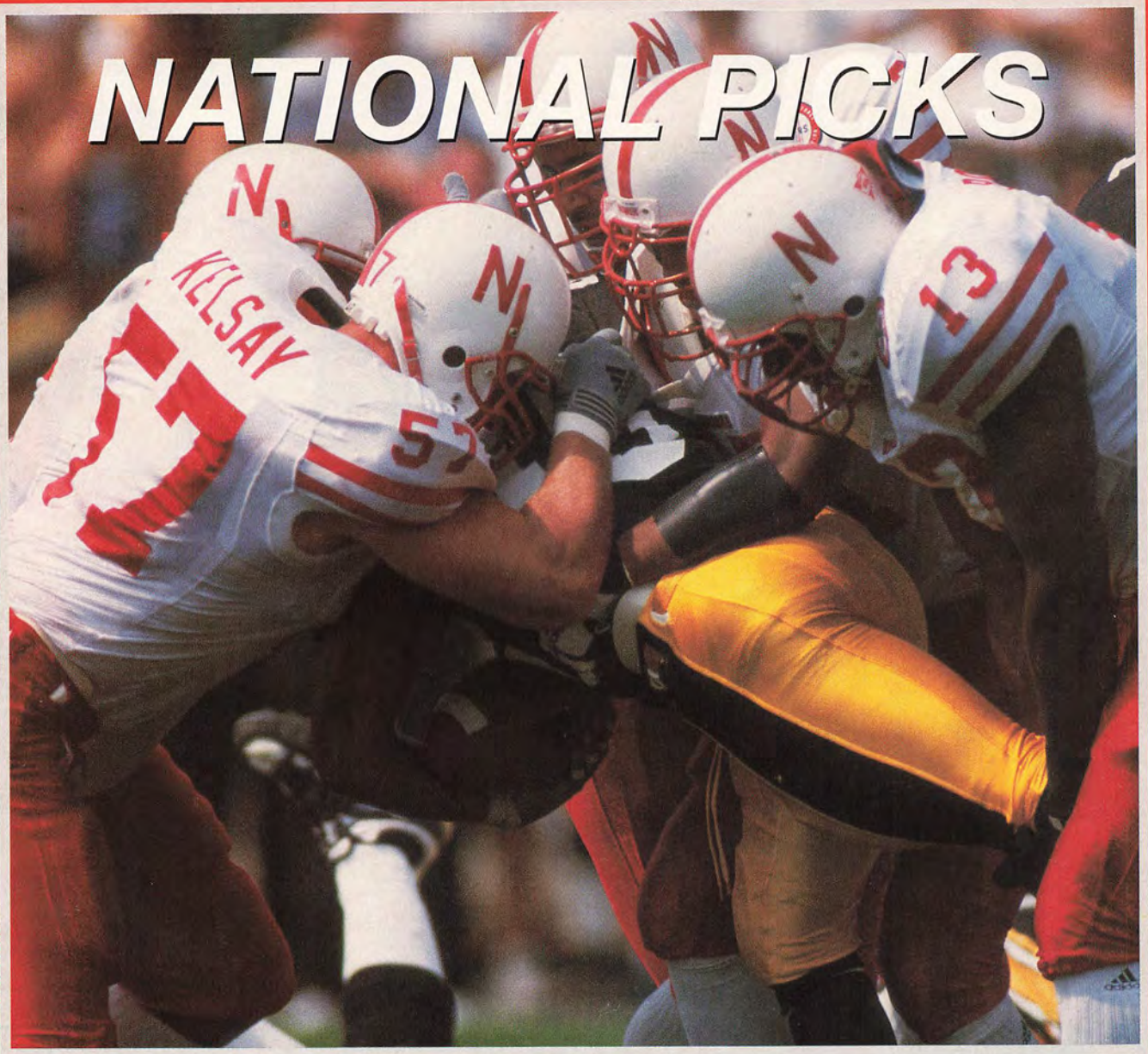


PHOTO BY STEVE BEYER

1. Nebraska

Get Ready for Some Power Football

By the end of the season, Nebraska was back to looking like the Big Red, using its superior muscle to flatten a Tennessee defense that had been crowing about how good it was. That 31-21 Fiesta Bowl victory emphasized how the Cornhuskers really haven't missed a beat under Frank Solich, who would have been playing for the national title in his second season if not for a four-point loss to Texas in midseason.

Now the Huskers are poised to do exactly that — play for, and win — a national championship. Another championship.

As long as they win the big ones at the end, they shouldn't have to worry about schedule ratings or such things. Other teams have more difficult schedules, but the Cornhuskers simply have the Big 12 schedule they are dealt this season, and it isn't their fault they don't get a chance to face South Division powers Texas or Texas A&M. They plan to take on the best of the South in the league championship game anyway.

THE GOOD NEWS: The O-Line features potential All-Americans in center Dominic Raiola and guard Russ Hochstein, and even though they have to replace two starting linemen from 1999, one of the replacements is tackle Jason Schwab, who was a 1998 starter before missing last season with an injury. The top three I-backs combined for 1,830 yards last season … and that rumble is the touted arrival of RB Thunder Collins.

Although the defense isn't as flush with returning starters as the offense

NATIONAL PICKS

(10), there are still seven positions manned by players with starting experience, and lots of speed elsewhere. And the best special teams in the country will serve as the right hand for the defense.

THE BAD NEWS: The secondary will miss the "Brown Brothers," and somebody has to help Carlos Polk accumulate all the tackles at linebacker, but promising players are in the wings. No such luck at QB, where Eric Crouch desperately needs to stay healthy.

Any game at Notre Dame is a risk (Sept. 9), and it's a bit unnerving for a team to wade through two months of preliminaries before the main events — their last four games are at Kansas State, at home against Colorado, (and presumably) the Big 12 championship game in Kansas City, and the national championship game in Miami.

OUR CALL: If Nebraska isn't 9-0 heading into a Nov. 11 showdown at Kansas State, something has gone terribly awry. But once they get to that point, the Cornhuskers know what to do. They already have captured three national championships in the past six years, and once they get within shouting distance they won't be denied.

2. FLORIDA STATE

'Noles Have Big Encore In Store

Peter Warrick returned for his senior season in 1999 to win one national title. Quarterback Chris Weinke is doing him one better; he returned in order to win his *second* championship. Gotta admire his timing. Even without Warrick, he's got a plethora of talented receivers to throw to, and he will be suitably protected by an offensive line that will rate with the school's best.

THE GOOD NEWS: There's not enough space here to talk about all of FSU's potential All-Americans. Let's just say it will be a major upset if the Seminoles don't extend their streak of consecutive Top 5 finishes, currently at an amazing 13.

THE BAD NEWS: Since Sebastian Janikowski took his big leg to the NFL, the Seminoles are likely to rely on — *gulp* — a true-freshman kicker. And the middle of that defensive line just won't be the same without Cory Simon and Jerry Johnson.

OUR CALL: So much for something new. FSU will survive a game at Miami and a home finale vs. Florida ... and play in a third-consecutive national title game.

3. WISCONSIN

Even Greater Without Dayne

How can a team be better without the Heisman Trophy winner around? Well, almost all other key players are charging back for more, and they won't have the luxury (or limitation) of relying so heavily on all-time No. 1 rusher Ron Dayne. So, coach Barry Alvarez is diversifying the offense just a little and the veteran defense will make opposing offenses play the way the Badgers want them to play ... poorly.

THE GOOD NEWS: The Badgers have built a solid foundation on big-game performances, with back-to-back Big Ten titles and Rose Bowl triumphs — and three Rose victories in seven seasons — and now with 16 returning starters, they're ready to win all of the little ones, too.

THE BAD NEWS: There's a four-week gauntlet starting Sept. 30 that presents Wisconsin with its four toughest games in succession (at Michigan, Ohio State, at Michigan State, and Purdue). It's hard to ignore that the Badgers won't have the Big Dog to ride when things get tough.

OUR CALL: The No. 1 team from the No. 1 conference is 21-3 in the past two years and is peaking. It might even be ready to top out at No. 1.

4. ALABAMA

Tide Rolls To Miami Or New Orleans

Consider that coach Mike DuBose's biggest concerns have been to find strong leadership and choose between two of the top four or five quarterbacks in the SEC, and it's apparent that the Crimson Tide is loaded. Last year, their dual victories over Florida were considered upsets ... but it's going to be up to the rest of the SEC to keep the Tide from re-establishing its traditional spot as frontrunners.

THE GOOD NEWS: An imposing 18 starters return from the league championship team, which has ample big-play guys on offense and a defense led by LB Saleem Rasheed that rated in the top 10 nationally last season.

THE BAD NEWS: The Tide never would have been a 10-3 team last year without All-American RB Shaun Alexander, and not only is he gone to the NFL, but so is his No. 1 blocker, Chris Samuels (both first-round draft picks).

OUR CALL: This team looks like it's again headed for Atlanta for the SEC championship game, and the Sugar Bowl ... unless, of course, it gets to play for No. 1 in the Orange Bowl.

5. MIAMI

Hurricane Time Is Now

Sure, the Hurricanes thought they were going to have quarterback Kenny Kelly and linebacker Nate Webster around, but this season still could be all Miami wants it to be — namely, the capper for Butch Davis' rebuilding project. With a collection of skill-position people that is the envy of almost every other team, Miami would be sorely disappointed with anything less than its first Top 10 finish since 1994.

THE GOOD NEWS: There's no safe place to attack the Miami defense, since every position group has a potential All-American of some sort. Humongous games against Florida State and Virginia Tech are at home.

THE BAD NEWS: Sophomore Ken Dorsey was mighty impressive last season in relief of Kelly, but he fattened up on some bad defenses ... so the question remains: Can he do it against the Florida States and Virginia Techs of the world?

OUR CALL: Year Five of the Davis era ended with his first Jan. 1 bowl appearance. Year Six will see the Hurricane's swaggering in a BCS bowl ... maybe even a home game?

6. MICHIGAN

No Drop-off For Wolverines

The 32 victories in the past three seasons — including a stunning 8-1 record against Ohio State, Penn State and Wisconsin — are the most for the Wolverines since Fielding Yost's 1903-05 teams won 33. Although the Big Ten is deeper, more balanced than ever, Michigan is poised to win or share the Big Ten title for the third time in four years (and ninth in 15).

THE GOOD NEWS: The offense is loaded at the skill positions, and the veteran line should find the consistency that eluded it at times in 1999. The Sept. 30 tilt with Wisconsin looks like the game of the year ... and it's at Michigan Stadium.

THE BAD NEWS: The defense is young, and the schedule calls for three trips to wild offensive teams (UCLA, Purdue, Illinois) plus the game against Wisconsin in a grueling stretch beginning Sept. 16.

OUR CALL: Replacing six defensive starters is never easy, but the talent Lloyd Carr has recruited makes it feasible for the Wolverines to wind up in the BCS again.

NATIONAL PICKS

7. FLORIDA

Gators Led By, Uh, Defense?

Times have changed in Gainesville, where the name of the game is defense, and for want of a little offense, this ballclub could be something special. It'll be up to QB Jesse Palmer to show the kind of improvement forecast for him two years ago. He did not blossom amid controversy with Doug Johnson, and now he's got the chance to run with the job and run the team ... and the Gators are counting on him.

THE GOOD NEWS: A nine-win season, with all four losses coming to Top 10 teams, is not exactly a horrendous slump. Linemen Alex Brown and Gerard Warren lead a veteran defense, and RB Earnest Graham gives the offense balance.

THE BAD NEWS: Only four starters, including just two linemen, return to an offense that barely managed 400 yards a game last season. None of the biggest games are at home: at Tennessee, at Florida State, and vs. Georgia in Jacksonville.

OUR CALL: Florida should outlast UT and Georgia in the East ... but unless Palmer and the WRs improve drastically, the SEC title drought will reach four years.

8. TEXAS

Talent Level On The Rise In Austin

With a team as talented as the Longhorns, it's hard to be humble ... unless you lost your last three games of the 1999 season and had your starting quarterback undergo major knee surgery. Not to worry. Texas' crash to earth in late 1999 looks like a mere blip. With the way Mack Brown has been recruiting, Texas is hurtling into the new millennium with designs on multiple Big 12 titles.

THE GOOD NEWS: The defense, keyed by tackles Casey Hampton and Shaun Rogers, should be the Longhorns' best unit since the early '90s. The offense has its pick of quality quarterbacks Major Applewhite or Chris Simms.

THE BAD NEWS: There will be no bigger (potential) quarterback controversy than the one in Austin, and that can have a way of being a big ol' Texas-sized distraction. With Kwame Cavil gone, the quarterbacks need to find a new go-to guy.

OUR CALL: No Nebraska, no Kansas State in the regular season. Looks like Texas cruises to the South Division title and the league's championship game.

9. GEORGIA

Breakthrough Needed... Now

Two games. That's all ... two games. Obviously the Bulldogs have to mind their Ps and Qs along the way, but really, they just need to find a way to play well for a change against Florida (in Jacksonville) and Tennessee (in Athens). They're 1-18 in their last 19 games against those two teams, which is why they keep watching the SEC championship game on TV. But this is their chance.

THE GOOD NEWS: The Dawgs have a rare combination of big-time talent and lots of experience (18 returning starters), and their four true road games are against teams they ought to handle. QB Quincy Carter can play his way to the top of the Heisman race.

THE BAD NEWS: There's a lot of pressure on this team. Carter came back for this, and coach Jim Donnan has been gearing up for it ... even 10-2 will be a disappointment ... if it's the wrong two in the loss column.

OUR CALL: It's maybe UGa's best chance for an SEC East title since the crown of 1982. But has breaking through the Big Two become too much to ask? Probably.

10. KANSAS STATE

Back For BCS Run At BCS

Twenty-one regular-season victories in the past two seasons is a major reason for celebration — hey, it took K-State *nine years* to get that many before Bill Snyder took over in 1989. But all that winning has yet to translate into a Big 12 title. The Wildcats aren't going anywhere, though, and have the players to keep plugging away this season at those elusive goals.

THE GOOD NEWS: Offense is loaded with big-play dudes like RB/returner David Allen and WR Quincy Morgan, and it's hard to find a flaw with kicker Jamie Rheem. If Jonathan Beasley can't cut it at QB, Ell Roberson III probably can.

THE BAD NEWS: The non-conference quartet of Iowa, Louisiana Tech, Ball State and North Texas is fooling no one, so if K-State is to join the BCS parade, it can't rely on getting an at-large bid. Its ticket will have to be a Big 12 title.

OUR CALL: The season turns on the mid-November tussle with Nebraska. The Wildcats won the last meeting in Manhattan ... but not this time.

11. VIRGINIA TECH

Hokies Look To Click Behind Vick

The defense has been gutted, the special teams need a makeover, running back Shyrone Stith should have stayed in school. Boo-hoo. The Hokies will be crazy-good because of that quarterback guy Michael Vick. OK, so maybe another appearance in the national title game isn't in the offing, but, with Vick, this sure looks to be a "major-bowl" kind of year.

THE GOOD NEWS: Frank Beamer isn't an overnight wonder, so we have a hard time seeing his beloved defense and special teams going to seed. Vick and Andre Davis form the nation's best deep threat, and the offense can put up 40 per game.

THE BAD NEWS: In addition to the re-stocking of talent, Virginia Tech has a tricky opener vs. Georgia Tech, as well as road games at East Carolina, Syracuse and Miami. The angry 'Canes will be looking to end a five-game skid vs. Tech.

OUR CALL: A rebuilt defense and special teams keep the Hokies from the top tier, but they'll probably go Gator Bowling.

12. TENNESSEE

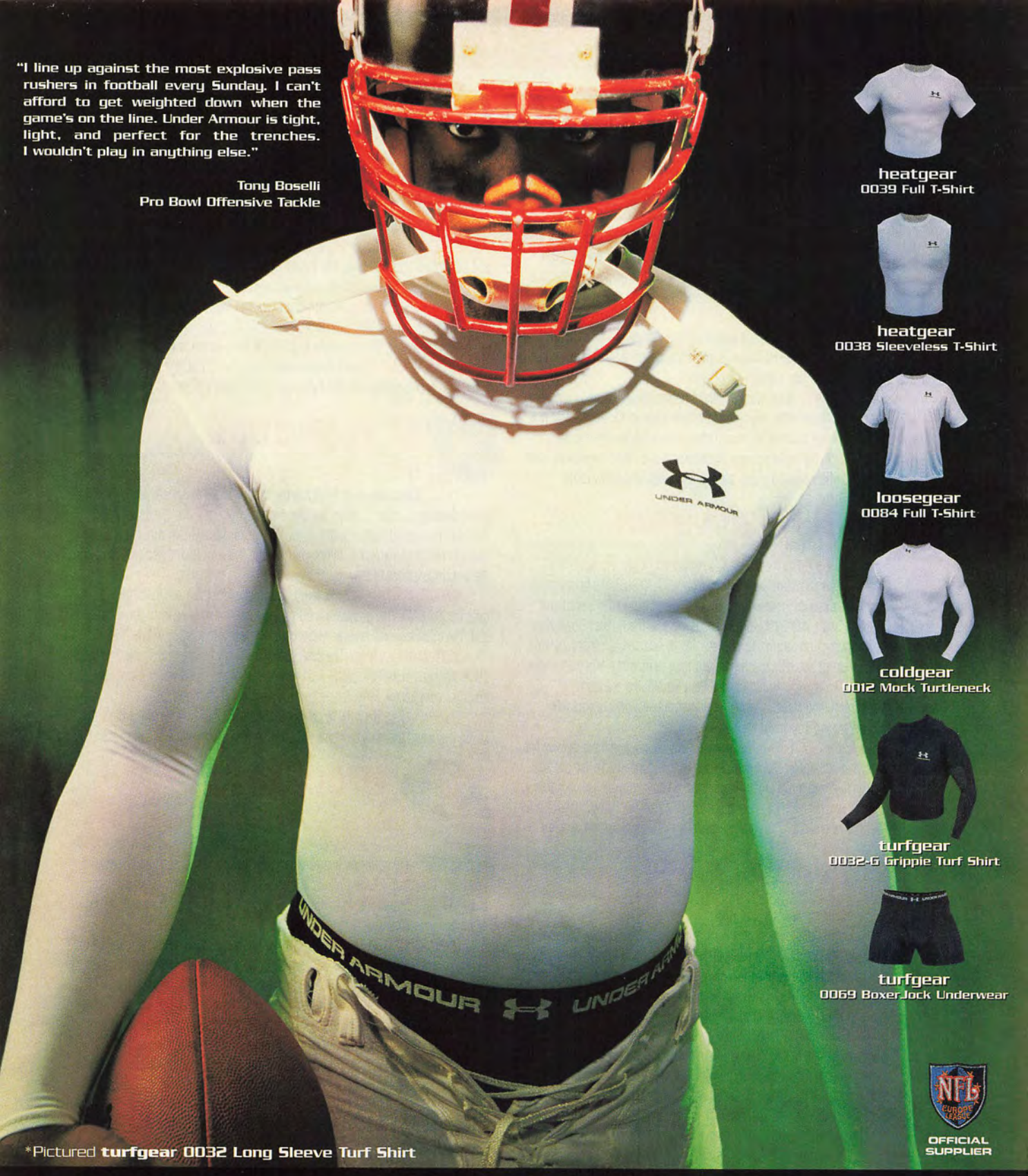
Vols Must Make New Identity

Phillip Fulmer has the biggest rebuilding job in the Top 25. Losing 13 starters from last year's team — most of whom were key players on the 1998 national championship squad — means these Vols will be following nobody. They're their own team, and will establish their own identity ... nobody will have a street named after them, unlike the past two quarterbacks. But that doesn't mean they'll lose much.

THE GOOD NEWS: As much as any program in the country, talent abounds in the younger classes in Knoxville. Guys like DT John Henderson, DE Will Overstreet, and CB Andre Lott will take their place as high-profile players.

THE BAD NEWS: The first four SEC games are all very losable: Florida, at LSU (Tigers' first SEC game under Nick Saban), at Georgia, Alabama. Only one starting OL returns, which is a bad combination with a new QB (Joey Mathews).

OUR CALL: Here's where Fulmer gets to prove he's worth the million bucks they're paying him ... getting back to a third straight BCS bowl would be astounding.


"I line up against the most explosive pass rushers in football every Sunday. I can't afford to get weighted down when the game's on the line. Under Armour is tight, light, and perfect for the trenches. I wouldn't play in anything else."
Tony Boselli
Pro Bowl Offensive Tackle
UNDER ARMOUR
UNDER ARMOUR
UNDER ARMOUR
heatgear
0039 Full T-Shirt
heatgear
0038 Sleeveless T-Shirt
loosegear
0084 Full T-Shirt
coldgear
0012 Mock Turtleneck
turfgear
0032-G Grippie Turf Shirt
turfgear
0069 BoxerJock Underwear
NFL EUROPE LEAGUE
OFFICIAL SUPPLIER
*Pictured turfgear 0032 Long Sleeve Turf Shirt

Performance apparel for any condition. Our apparel is built for speed and has been field-proven to help you win. What began with our superior undershirt designed for equipment sports has developed into a revolution in the fit and fabrics that athletes choose to protect their bodies. Our high-tech performance gear wraps around your body like a second skin to protect you from the elements and your opponents.

MasterCard VISA American Express Cards DISCOVER NOVUS

www.underarmour.com

for a FREE catalog, to place an order, or for a team dealer in your area call 1.888.4.ARMOUR or 1.888.427.6687

UNDER ARMOUR®

NATIONAL PICKS

13. PURDUE

Boilers Try To Ride Brees To Pasadena

When Drew Brees announced late in 1999 that he'd remain a Boilermaker for the 2000 season, Purdue became a serious contender for the 2001 Rose Bowl. Yet, as close as he might be able to get them, it's going to take some additional defense to get the Boilermakers to Pasadena for the first time since Bob Griese led them in the 1966 season.

THE GOOD NEWS: Brees is capable of outscoring any team in any game. He's one of the top three Heisman Trophy candidates heading into the season, and there are seven other starters on offense.

THE BAD NEWS: Brees was capable of outscoring any team in any game last season, too ... but even while averaging 32 points a game, the Boilers lost five times. And now they have to throw six new starters into the defensive lineup.

OUR CALL: In the three seasons under coach Joe Tiller, the Boilers have shown a wonderful offense and a gutsy team. They're ready to show more.

14. WASHINGTON

Everything's Coming Up Roses

Everyone came away happy from Rick Neuheisel's honeymoon season, a nice 7-5 campaign in which the Huskies rallied from an 0-2 start and then threw a major scare into big favorite Kansas State in the Holiday Bowl. Now, it gets serious. Washington returns 15 starters, led by quarterback Marques Tuiasosopo, and is intent (if not yet capable) on returning to its early-'90s dominance.

THE GOOD NEWS: Running back Paul Arnold, the ace from Neuheisel's first recruiting class, is ready for a bust-out season in a versatile offense designed around Tuiasosopo's all-around skills.

THE BAD NEWS: The Huskies won't exactly be stout on the defensive line, and are praying that JC transfer Marcus Roberson can plug the middle. No one has been identified as the deep threat at receiver that would make the offense complete.

OUR CALL: This team can't compare to UW's Pac-10 championship teams from 1990-92, but who cares? The Huskies can take this watered-down league.

15. MISSISSIPPI

Rebs' Backfield Filled With Firepower

David Cutcliffe is on the verge of taking what Tommy Tuberville started, and riding the Rebs to the next level. Not many coaches get to take over a program with talent like RB Deuce McAllister and QB Romaro Miller ... but more importantly, not many coaches know what to do with them when they get there. Cutcliffe knows, and his second year at Ole Miss could be one to remember.

THE GOOD NEWS: McAllister is the best all-purpose back in the country and fits with Miller and tailback Joe Gunn to give the Rebels a dynamite backfield. In Cutcliffe's second season, everything will be more familiar and efficient.

THE BAD NEWS: Ole Miss must travel to Alabama and Georgia for two of its most important games. The defense lost some of its hard underbelly, so it can't expect to be as tough against the run as in 1999 (76.9 yards a game).

OUR CALL: All four of the Rebels' losses last season were one-possession games. Now they're ready to win 10 for the first time since 1971.

16. CLEMSON

Time To Win The Close Ones

Clemson was Close Call U. in 1999, taking Virginia Tech deep into the fourth quarter, and playing Marshall, Florida State and Georgia Tech within a field goal. Nice efforts, to be sure ... and now the expectations have gone way, way up in coach Tommy Bowden's second season. He has the goods to deliver, although he'll be forgiven if he can't knock off Papa Bowden and FSU just yet.

THE GOOD NEWS: LB Keith Adams is back to roam all over the field, and DB Robert Carswell gives the Tigers a one-two All-American punch. Expect the pass-first offense to keep rolling under Woodrow Dantzler's direction.

THE BAD NEWS: A team that played as many close games as Clemson sure could use a good field goal kicker, but Tony Lazzara made only seven of 12 attempts last season. That, and the fact Florida State is still in the ACC.

OUR CALL: Sixteen starters back from a team that finished 6-6 (but competed with everybody) means the Tigers are at the top of the "Teams to Watch" list.

17. PENN STATE

Offense To Carry Rebuilding Defense

The collapse of 1999 has the Nittany Lions especially anxious to do some damage in 2000 ... when few people really expect it. Now, with 14 new starters and several staff changes, they will try to make another run, but it'll take a special season to supercede the memory of the 9-0 start that fizzled with losses in the last three games of the regular season.

THE GOOD NEWS: Rashard Casey established himself in the bowl victory over Texas A&M as the playmaking QB the Lions need him to be throughout this season. The offense should be even better than last year with a group of fine RBs.

THE BAD NEWS: The defense lost eight starters (including the first two players chosen in the NFL draft — DT Courtney Brown and LB LaVar Arrington), and longtime coordinator Jerry Sandusky, so it can't avoid a dropoff.

OUR CALL: It's hard to believe that Penn State has been in the Big Ten for seven years and has won only one league title. This doesn't look like the second.

18. COLORADO

Big Schedule Awaits Rejuvenated Buffs

The Buffs seemed to "get it" about halfway through last season, beating Oklahoma, suffering heartbreaking losses to Kansas State and Nebraska, and then thrashing Boston College in the Insight.com Bowl. With his system in place, all Gary Barnett needs to do now is sign his kind of players, which he did when he landed the nation's top RB — Marcus Houston from Denver.

THE GOOD NEWS: The replacement for QB Mike Moschetti will be big and tall — either Zac Colvin or JC transfer Bob Pesavento. A strong front seven, which includes All-American LB Jashon Sykes, will be tough to penetrate.

THE BAD NEWS: There's no room to breathe until late October at the earliest. Check it out: vs. Colorado State, at USC, Washington, Kansas State, at Texas A&M, Texas. Let's see if the new starting quarterback survives that.

OUR CALL: The signs are positive, but it's just too soon to expect the Buffs to bust through to the Nebraska-Kansas State level in the Big 12 North.

19. SOUTHERN MISS

Golden Eagles Get Offensive In 2000

Not content after a 9-3 season in which his team won the Liberty Bowl and finished 14th nationally, Jeff Bower made major moves to upgrade an offense that has good parts, but nonetheless languished at 82nd in the country. The new leader is ex-Nevada offensive coordinator Chris Klenakis, he of the wide-open one-back offense. The defense? No Adalius Thomas, but still plenty good.

THE GOOD NEWS: Jeff Kelly might not yet invoke memories of Brett

NATIONAL PICKS

Favre, but he did finish ninth nationally in passing efficiency and has an offense in which to flourish. Derrick Nix, a 1,000-yard rusher, provides a nice complement.

THE BAD NEWS: Wow ... starting off on the road against Tennessee and Alabama (and Oklahoma State) sounds like death. The difficult schedule isn't new for Southern Miss, but will challenge the Eagles' belief in the new offense.

OUR CALL: By the time the C-USA game of the year comes around — East Carolina at Southern Miss on Nov. 25 — the Eagles will have all the pieces in place.

20. ILLINOIS

Orange And Blue Ready To Surge Again

It's almost as though the Fighting Illini charged onto the scene so quickly that they haven't been able to enjoy the rise. Because, suddenly, they've gone from upstart to a team that won eight games, scored 63 points in a bowl game, and is expected to be even better this season. But with Kurt Kittner leading an amazing 10 returning starters in Ron Turner's offense, this team has a lot going for it ... again.

THE GOOD NEWS: Yes, that's 10 starters on offense. Kittner's 24-TD, five-interception sophomore season gives him the confidence to do even more this season; an intact O-line will make it so. Not playing Wisconsin or Purdue helps, too.

THE BAD NEWS: No more sneaking up on people (like in the comebacks against Michigan and Ohio State). And with more than half of the starting defense new, the high-powered offense is going to have to score even more than last season.

OUR CALL: The schedule calls for a 3-0 start and plenty of momentum heading into the Big Ten season, when a .500 record gets the Illini another nice bowl trip.

21. TCU

There's Lots More Than LaDainian

It's nice to know that Heisman candidate LaDainian Tomlinson can run for 400 yards in a game if he wants to; it's even nicer to know that he doesn't have to for the Horned Frogs to win. With 10 starters back on offense and eight on defense, TCU can kill in a variety of ways, most likely with an underappreciated defense (at least on a national scale) that ranked fifth in the country last season.

THE GOOD NEWS: QB Casey Printers was a revelation as a freshman last season, and he will have ample opportunity to grow, thanks to an offensive line that returns intact. On defense, end Aaron Schobel is an NFL-ready prospect.

THE BAD NEWS: The days of TCU sneaking up on anybody are officially over. Watch out, Frogs, you're sure to get the best shot of every team in the WAC, especially because this is your last go-round before bolting to Conference USA.

OUR CALL: There's not a game that TCU won't be favored to win, making the Frogs this year's "Marshall" — the small-conference team most likely to be perfect.

22. UTAH

Going To The Top Of The Mountain West

Like last year, the Mountain West race is expected to be a jumbled mess, especially with UNLV looking capable of joining the fray. Losing all-league guys like defensive end John Frank and running back Mike Anderson will hurt, but Ron McBride has the speediest bunch in the MWC — receiver/returner Steve Smith is exhibit A — and that's the slight edge the Utes need to win this thing outright.

THE GOOD NEWS: McBride has his pick of senior quarterbacks — Darnell Arceneaux or T.D. Croshaw — and they combined for 24 touchdown passes last season. On defense, Andre Dyson is one of the nation's best shutdown corners.

THE BAD NEWS: Even with 17 starters returning, there is no experience to speak of at running back. Keeping two quarterbacks happy is a delicate balance that can drive a team to distraction.

OUR CALL: Utah will make a statement in a trio of early Pac-10 games — Arizona, at Cal, Washington State — setting the stage for a rugged MWC race.

23. USC

Talented Trojans Go For Roses

Take your pick — either the Trojans have been consistently overrated or they are classic underachievers. Either way, we'll bite the bullet and pick them in the Top 25 — again — anticipating that this time Paul Hackett's talented troops play to the level of expectations. With the right mix of chemistry and an extra dose of fortitude, USC's first Pac-10 title in five years is well within reach.

THE GOOD NEWS: Sophomore WR Kareem Kelly is the real deal, which is a tag QB Carson Palmer has carried around since his high school days. There are All-American-types at every level of defense, starting with DT Ennis Davis.

THE BAD NEWS: Goodness gracious, USC hasn't had an All-Pac-10 running back since 1989, and what happened to that proud tradition of offensive linemen? This pedestrian group of big hosses up front isn't of typical Rose Bowl-caliber.

OUR CALL: USC could very well start 0-2 (Penn State in the Kickoff Classic, followed by Colorado), but will be chasing the Pac-10 title all the way to the end.

24. OHIO STATE

Cupboard Not Bare In Columbus

While most coaches try to keep expectations from outdistancing performance, six losses last season have stripped that luxury from OSU's John Cooper ... who promptly declared in the spring that "we've got too much talent" not to be a force on the national level. Alrighty then. It's time to go to work, because the Buckeyes are going to have to climb back over some teams.

THE GOOD NEWS: This is no rebuilding effort — the defense has plenty of experience, and the offense has big-play guys. As inconsistent as QB Steve Bellisari was (24 for 60 in the last three games), at least now he has that valuable experience.

THE BAD NEWS: C'mon ... that offense was terrible last season, when OSU scored more than 20 points only five times. And for the second year in a row, the Buckeyes don't get to beat Northwestern and Indiana (which are off the schedule).

OUR CALL: It's hard to imagine another bowl-less season. But unless they beat Penn State and/or Wisconsin in the first league games, the bottom could fall out again.

25. TEXAS A&M

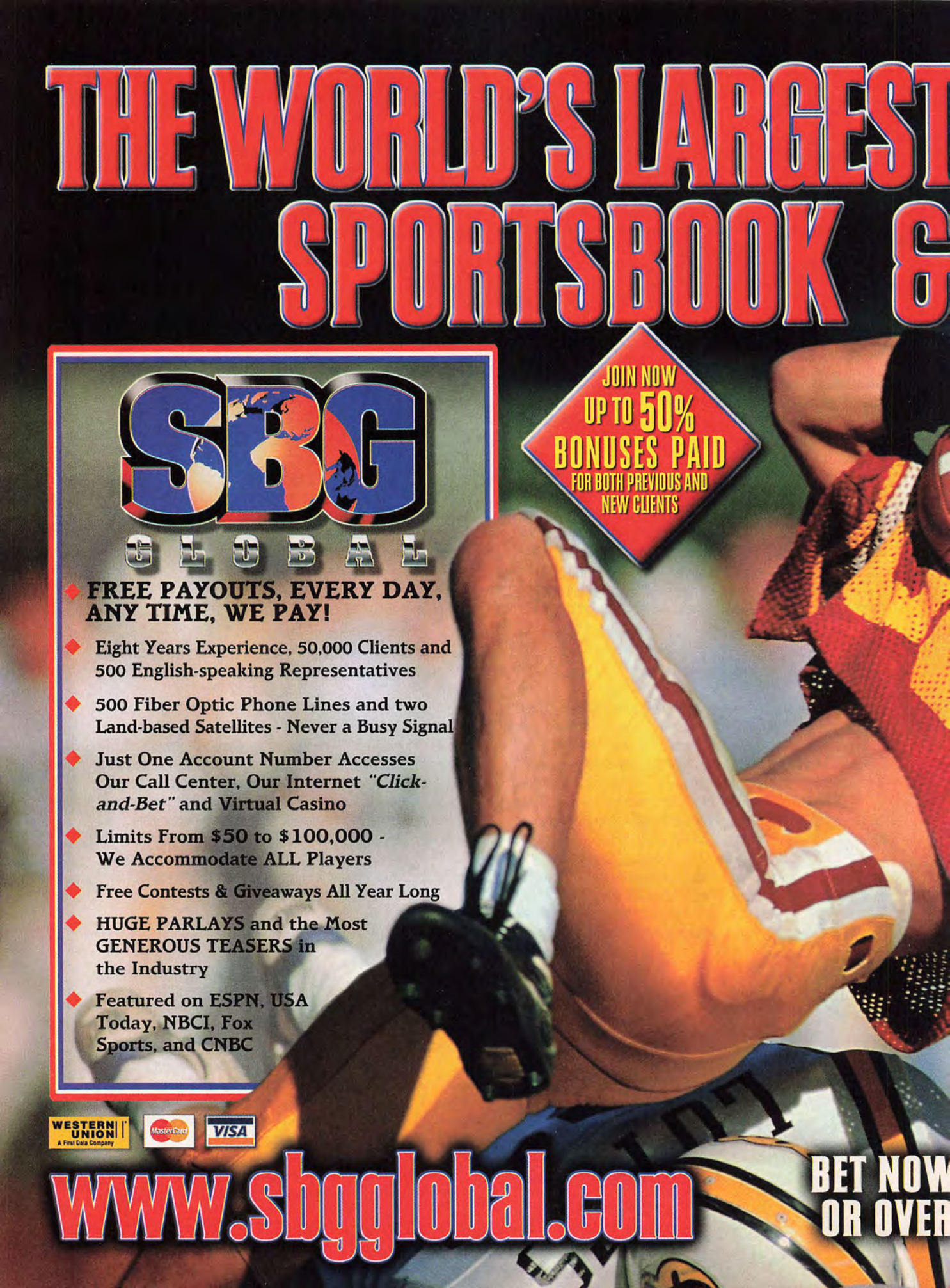
Looking To Atone For 1999

Poised for a big season in 1999, the Aggies were instead a disappointing 8-4, failing to score more than six points in three of their last six games. Let's just call that motivation for 2000. They'll need it, because offensive revivals are happening at Big 12 South rivals Oklahoma and Texas Tech, and arch-rival Texas is recruiting like crazy.

THE GOOD NEWS: The defense, ranked 13th in the nation last season, will be typically excellent thanks to a strong front. The Aggies' receivers can flat-out jet, giving hope for a big-play offense. And only one tough road league game: Texas.

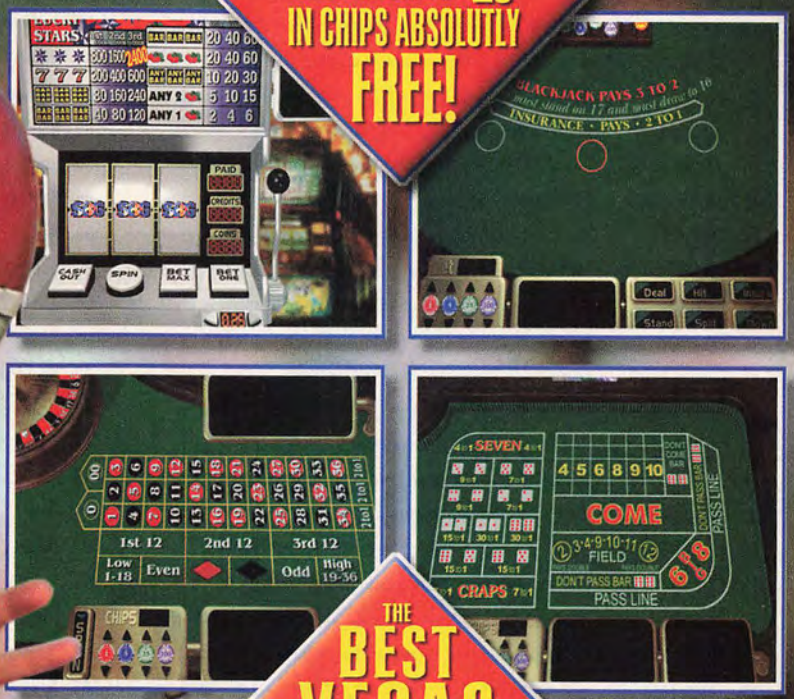
THE BAD NEWS: A&M will be inexperienced at QB, and that position could short-circuit the offense again. Who's going to replace punter Shane Lechler, and will Terrence Kitchens have fewer than seven kicks blocked this season?

OUR CALL: Defense keeps it close, but the offense still has too many questions to consider the Aggies as a serious contender for the Big 12 title. ❑


THE WORLD'S LARGEST
SPORTSBOOK &
SBG
GLOBAL
JOIN NOW
UP TO 50%
BONUSES PAID
FOR BOTH PREVIOUS AND
NEW CLIENTS
FREE PAYOUTS, EVERY DAY,
ANY TIME, WE PAY!
Eight Years Experience, 50,000 Clients and
500 English-speaking Representatives
500 Fiber Optic Phone Lines and two
Land-based Satellites - Never a Busy Signal
Just One Account Number Accesses
Our Call Center, Our Internet "Click-
and-Bet" and Virtual Casino
Limits From $50 to $100,000 -
We Accommodate ALL Players
Free Contests & Giveaways All Year Long
HUGE PARLAYS and the Most
GENEROUS TEASERS in
the Industry
Featured on ESPN, USA
Today, NBCI, Fox
Sports, and CNBC
WESTERN UNION
A First Data Company
MasterCard
VISA
www.sbgglobal.com
BET NOW
OR OVER

AND MOST RESPECTED ONLINE CASINO.

DOWNLOAD OUR SBG CASINO AND RECEIVE $25 IN CHIPS ABSOLUTLY FREE!



THE BEST VEGAS TEASERS IN THE ENTIRE INDUSTRY

1-888-BET-EASY

ONLINE...
THE PHONE!

1-888-238-3279 Back-Up Toll Free 1-877-690-2387

Rating the Teams 1-115

1. Nebraska	6. Michigan	11. Virginia Tech	16. Clemson	21. Utah
2. Florida State	7. Florida	12. Tennessee	17. Penn State	22. TCU
3. Wisconsin	8. Texas	13. Purdue	18. Colorado	23. USC
4. Alabama	9. Georgia	14. Washington	19. Southern Miss	24. Ohio State
5. Miami	10. Kansas State	15. Ole Miss	20. Illinois	25. Texas A&M

26. East Carolina	Pirates head for another bowl game with veteran talent.
27. Oklahoma	The departure of passing guru Mike Leach will be felt.
28. BYU	Solid defense and nice supporting cast for a new QB.
29. UCLA	Superior recruiting classes start to pay dividends again.
30. Michigan State	Tough schedule interrupts Bobby Williams' honeymoon.
31. Marshall	Herd carries 17-game winning streak, but will drop off a bit.
32. Oregon	Quality QBs, overall balance, keep Ducks near Pac-10 lead.
33. Virginia	Cavs need to find offense following Thomas Jones era.
34. Syracuse	Orange look to rebound from disappointing '99.
35. LSU	Nick Saban hopes to bring first-year magic to talented team.
36. Notre Dame	Tough times for the Irish, as they try to shock the world.
37. Arizona	Cats love being underdogs; have solid lines on each side.
38. Mississippi State	Great defense lost eight quality starters.
39. Auburn	Revitalized offense will help Tigers contend for bowl bid.
40. Minnesota	Gophers will struggle to duplicate '99 success.
41. Arizona State	Shaky QB situation keeps Devils from climbing higher.
42. Georgia Tech	Must find a way to overcome new QB and old defense.
43. Stanford	No repeat Rose Bowl trip, but will be tough to beat.
44. Louisville	Redman's gone, but plenty of offensive weapons return.
45. Arkansas	Hogs absorb key losses, but RB Cedric Cobbs ready to break out.
46. Maryland	Is this the year the Terps finally learn how to win?
47. Colorado State	Rams are in tough race in Mountain West.
48. North Carolina	Rally in '99 built confidence, but still lacking blockers.
49. Indiana	Hoosiers still looking for more than QB Randle El.
50. Kentucky	The defense needs to buck up as the offense keeps scoring.
51. Pittsburgh	Walt Harris' rebuilding project forges ahead.
52. Fresno State	Bulldogs poised for run at second consecutive bowl.
53. UAB	Watson Brown has Blazers rising quickly in C-USA.
54. Vanderbilt	'Dores' chance to break on through to the other side (bowl).
55. Boston College	For Eagles to return to postseason, offense must soar.
56. Texas Tech	New coach Mike Leach brings high-flying passing attack.
57. Oregon State	Pushovers no more; DBs and RBs are special.
58. N.C. State	New coach Chuck Amato brings high-flying passing attack.
59. Cincinnati	Too young last year, Bearcats grow up in 2000.
60. SMU	Ponies should manage to run with the WAC pack.
61. UNLV	New QB Jason Thomas takes Rebels from last to first division.
62. Hawaii	Defense, not June Jones' touted offense, is team's strength.
63. Kansas	Jayhawks could emerge as a surprise with 17 returning starters.
64. Memphis	Tigers need offensive playmakers, but defense is tough.
65. Air Force	Falcons always most dangerous in rebuilding years like this one.
66. West Virginia	Rare losing season has Mountaineer fans grumbling.
67. Oklahoma State	Bowls a distant memory, pressure mounting on Bob Simmons.
68. Boise State	After winning bowl game, can Broncos keep rising?
69. Toledo	Most serious threat to Marshall's MAC reign.
70. Iowa State	Can Cyclones build momentum with soft September schedule?
71. Central Florida	Vic Penn is a fine quarterback, but needs help.
72. Houston	New coach must find ground game and defense.
73. Wyoming	New coach Vic Koenning counted on to bring continuity.
74. Iowa	Hawkeyes will be better, but Big Ten makes rebuilding tough.
75. Missouri	Anemic offense, porous defense doesn't get better overnight.
76. San Diego State	Offense vastly improved, but defense takes a step back.
77. Wake Forest	No back-to-back bowls for Demon Deacons.
78. Washington State	Cougs rely on young skill to hasten rebuilding effort.
79. Idaho	Vandals tune into new (Tom) Cable system.
80. Akron	Spirits are high coming off break through 7-4 season.
81. LA Tech	Brian Stallworth is a solid post-Rattay quarterback.
82. California	Stong defense takes step back; offense not ready to step up.
83. Rice	Owls' slump continues as league gets tougher.
84. Tulane	What happened to program that went 12-0 two years ago?
85. South Carolina	What did Lou Holtz get himself into?
86. W. Michigan	Will be hard-pressed to approach success of '99.
87. Temple	More-reasonable schedule could mean four wins.
88. Navy	QB Brian Madden has Middies fired up.
89. San Jose State	Spartans can score, but must improve No. 113 defense.
90. Army	Big changes force tough transition on new coach, old players.
91. Northwestern	Randy Walker will win in Evanston, but not this year.
92. New Mexico	Lobos are getting better, but so is the rest of the league.
93. Baylor	Take a knee, Coach, then we'll talk.
94. Ohio	Bobcats still plan to run like a service academy.
95. Miami, O.	Who'll score the touchdowns without Travis Prentice around?
96. Duke	Blue Devils made a run last year, but brace for tough 2000.
97. UTEP	Too-young defense bad timing for new coach Gary Nord.
98. New Mexico State	In last year of Big West, Aggies could contend for first title ever.
99. Rutgers	Knights can be respectable, but won't win much.
100. Nevada	Wolf Pack will need a year to adjust to step up to WAC.
101. N. Illinois	Nineteen starters return from encouraging 5-6 team.
102. Arkansas State	QB Cleo Lemon needs sweet senior season.
103. Utah State	New coach and new system, but same results.
104. Kent	Another losing season would bring the heat on Dean Pees.
105. UL-Monroe	After 5-6 in Bobby Keasler's first season, Indians look for more.
106. C. Michigan	Former Michigan assistant Mike Debord starts from scratch.
107. Bowling Green	Gary Blackney made big staff changes after another losing season.
108. E. Michigan	New coach Jeff Woodruff hits Ypsilanti with work cut out for him.
109. North Texas	Mean Green's offensive attack isn't mean or offensive.
110. Tulsa	Even with new coach, not much wind in Hurricane's sails.
111. Middle Tenn.	Year two in Division I-A will be as tough as year one.
112. UL-Lafayette	In second season, coach Jerry Baldwin finds hope.
113. Ball State	Cardinals are 1-21 over the past two seasons.
114. Connecticut	New Division I-A program finds the going a bit tougher.
115. Buffalo	Sorry Bulls, but you'll need to prove it before you're elevated.

2000's #1 OFFER!

THE NATION'S #1 WEEKLY FOOTBALL NEWSLETTER

POWER SWEEP

- ★ College 4★ Key Selections 11-2 85% in 1999!!!
- ★ Underdog Play of the Week 27-12 69% last 3 yrs!!!
- ★ NFL Power Ratings Plays 39-20 66% '95-'99!
- ★ NFL 4★ Key Selections 22-11-2 67% last 2 yrs!!!
- ★ NFL Playoff Selections in Power Sweep 53-30 64% on the ★ basis the last 3 years!
- ★ Packed with in-depth information such as...
- ★ Write-ups on ALL Lined Games
- ★ Past History Matchups
- ★ Misleading Final Scores
- ★ Complete NFL Statistics Section
- ★ Pro Angle Section
- ★ System of the Week
- ★ Last Week's Stats
- ★ Latest Injury Information
- ★ News & Notes *(loaded with hard to find info on college football)*

Entire Season of POWER SWEEP 22 Issues - Just $135!!!

When You Subscribe You Receive...

★ **More Weekly Information than any Other Newsletter**

SPECIAL BONUS OFFERS

Sign up before September 1, 2000 for POWER SWEEP and receive ALL 4 SPECIAL BONUSES!!!

BONUS #1

2 Weeks FREE NFL Preseason Late Phone Service

We are the #1 ranked service (net profit) over 11 years as documented by The Sports Monitor of Oklahoma City!! You receive 2 WEEKS of our preseason NFL LATE PHONE service ($150 value) FREE when you subscribe to Power Sweep! These are the EXACT SAME Late Phone Plays we give to our Executive Club Members and to the monitors. There is NO SALES PRESSURE. You receive a special toll-free phone number & personal passcode, and you access the plays at your convenience from a recording! This is a $150 value from the #1 rated Preseason Late Phone Service in the country and a tremendous bonus! Or if you prefer, you can receive $50 of credit on a Northcoast Sports Debit Card, which gives you an 800 number access to $50 worth of Northcoast Sports 900 plays whenever you need them throughout the 2000 season. $150.00 VALUE!!!

BONUS #2

FREE September 5★ Selection!!!

Our highest rated Late Phone Selection is a 5★ Play. (Not like those hype-artists that release 50★ or 100★ plays). We only release between 5 to 7 of these special plays over the entire 27 weeks of the football season!! You receive our first College 5★ Late Phone Selection (in September) of the 2000 season ABSOLUTELY FREE!!! $50.00 VALUE

How can we make such an offer? With a 90%+ resubscription rate over the last 16 years, we know that once you try our service, you will become a regular subscriber. Once you've WON with our FREE phone offers, you'll come back for more!!! You cannot afford to pass up this spectacular offer. Get your 2000 season started on a winning note and subscribe TODAY!

BONUS #3

FREE Preseason Issue and FREE Pro Football Preview Magazine

A must read preseason publication! Who will be this year's NFL champ? This Preseason Issue of Power Sweep has selections on all 5 of the preseason college football contests. Get our Preview of the 2000 season, plus a college football update & more in this information packed issue, yours FREE! As an added bonus you will receive our 2000 Pro Football Preview Magazine (7.95 value) absolutely FREE and it is 96 pages!

BONUS #4

FREE Schedules

FREE SCHEDULES sent to you throughout the football season in rotation.

To Verify our Preseason record call The Sports Monitor at 1-405-721-5018.

NORTHCOAST SPORTS SERVICE
PO BOX 35126
CLEVELAND OH 44135

■ I enclose $135 for a full season (22 issues) of POWER SWEEP (mailed FIRST CLASS every Monday). I understand that I receive all four bonus offers ABSOLUTELY FREE.

Select which bonus #1 you prefer:
■ $50 Northcoast Sports Debit Card
OR Preseason Late Phones:
■ Week 1-2 ■ Week 2-3 ■ Week 3-4

■ I am very interested in POWER SWEEP. Please send me THREE FREE COPIES! (A $21 VALUE)

Get Power Sweep on the web at www.ncsports.com

1-800-654-3448
or in Ohio
1-216-521-WINS

MAIL CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:
NORTHCOAST SPORTS SERVICE
PO BOX 35126, Cleveland OH 44135

Name_____
Address_____
City_____
State_____ Zip_____
Phone (____) _____
❑ VISA ❑ MC ❑ AMEX ❑ Check
Card # _____ Exp. Date_____
Signature_____

CBS SportsLine

Vick Rises Above Deep Crowd of Quarterbacks

Michael Vick has skewed the quarterback position for the 2000 season.

With the talent and performances he displayed in leading Virginia Tech to the cusp of the 1999 national championship, he's got every coach in America looking for "the next Michael Vick."

Thing is, *he's* the next Michael Vick. The new, improved model. The one that will pass more than last year. Make even better decisions. Have greater freedom in the offense. Hold even more respect from his teammates.

Opponents? They're downright frightened by what he might do to them at any second.

"This guy is scary. It's unbelievable how good he could be," said Clemson offensive coordinator Rich Rodriguez. "You know what amazes me? Florida State is about as fast as you can find on defense. He made some moves and shook some guys that I never thought you could do to Florida State."

And the guy will be only a sophomore this season, leading a team that lost a lot of its outstanding defense and will be counting on him to lead the offense to more points than the Hokies needed last season.

The complete package that Vick brings to the field has a tendency to overshadow other outstanding quarterbacks, who in most other years would be considered an All-American.

Glancing through the *Lindy's*/ SportsLine.com All-America checklist, the 2000 season looks like the year of the quarterback. Everybody seems to have one they're proud of ... better than "a guy we can win with."

Check it out: An amazing 51 of the 63 major-conference teams (tied into the Bowl Championship Series) have a starting quarterback returning. That's 81 percent.

There are more than a few guys with

Lindy's / SportsLine.com 2000 All-America Team

Offensive Player of the Year

MICHAEL VICK

OFFENSE

FIRST TEAM		YR	HT	WT	SCHOOL	
QB	Michael Vick	So.	6-1	214	Virginia Tech	*Lindy's* National Offensive Player of the Year.
RB	LaMont Jordan	Sr.	5-11	210	Maryland	Gained 1,101 yards in last six games of '99.
RB	Deuce McAllister	Sr.	6-1	220	Mississippi	Receiving skills put him a notch above.
WR	Santana Moss	Sr.	5-10	175	Miami	Smooth 'Cane can go the distance at any time.
WR	David Terrell	Jr.	6-3	208	Michigan	Lucrative combination of size and speed.
TE	Todd Heap	Jr.	6-5	232	Arizona State	Great receiver who is a top-drawer blocker.
C	Dominic Raiola	Jr.	6-2	295	Nebraska	Brings an attitude to the Big Red line.
OL	Ben Hamilton	Sr.	6-5	283	Minnesota	At the center of Gophers' resurgence.
OL	Steve Hutchinson	Sr.	6-5	298	Michigan	Four-year fixture in the Maize and Blue trenches.
OL	Kareem McKenzie	Sr.	6-7	321	Penn State	Best lineman in the best league for linemen.
OL	Tarlos Thomas	Sr.	6-5	320	Florida State	Leader of what might be Bowden's best O-Line.
AP	David Allen	Sr.	5-9	200	Kansas State	Due to break national PR record by midseason.
PK	Jamie Rheem	Sr.	6-2	190	Kansas State	Knocked home 15 FGs in a row last season.

SECOND TEAM		YR	HT	WT	SCHOOL	
QB	Drew Brees	Sr.	6-1	220	Purdue	Best Big Ten quarterback in more than a decade.
RB	Anthony Thomas	Sr.	6-2	225	Michigan	"A-Train" ready to roll for 1,500 yards.
RB	LaDainian Tomlinson	Sr.	5-11	217	TCU	Led nation in '99 with 1,850 rushing yards.
WR	Ronney Daniels	So.	6-1	204	Auburn	Big-play talent made huge impact as frosh.
WR	Quincy Morgan	Sr.	6-2	215	Kansas State	Averaged league-record 24 yards a catch.
TE	Tracey Wistrom	Jr.	6-5	220	Nebraska	Grant's brother makes big plays, too (27-yd avg).
C	Casey Rabach	Sr.	6-5	286	Wisconsin	Centerpiece of outstanding Badgers line.
OL	Leonard Davis	Sr.	6-6	367	Texas	Montrous tackle intimidates even Bevo.
OL	Terrence Metcalf	Jr.	6-3	300	Mississippi	Nation's best guard moves to left tackle.
OL	Kenyatta Walker	Jr.	6-5	298	Florida	Pass-blocker deluxe gives Gators an edge.
OL	Pork Chop Womack	Sr.	6-3	328	Mississippi St.	That's his real name; turns foes to chopped liver.
AP	Bobby Newcombe	Sr.	6-0	195	Nebraska	Open-field star found his niche at wingback.
PK	Vitaly Pisetsky	Sr.	5-10	228	Wisconsin	Russian immigrant rarely misses (16-20 FG).

serious Heisman Trophy credentials who don't figure to get a sniff at even preseason All-America consideration.

Drew Brees ... Chris Weinke ... Quincy Carter.

It takes a lot — it takes a Michael Vick — to overshadow a guy like Drew Brees.

Brees has it all, too. But the Purdue passer is just not quite as freaky — not as fast as Vick or possessing that quick release.

Brees has the offense, the arm, and the chutzpah (he showed an ability to run the ball when needed last year, too) to lead Purdue to even greater heights. He's led the Boilermakers to 16 victories the past two seasons, but he and the program have improved together under coach Joe Tiller, to the point that they have to be considered a Rose Bowl contender.

"He's not only gifted athletically, he's gifted intellectually," Michigan coach Lloyd Carr said of Brees. "He knows where the pressure is coming from. He knows where the coverage is going to be rolled. He makes such great decisions. There's nothing he can't do."

And how about Quincy Carter?

Carter was erratic as a freshman, dazzling as a sophomore — witness the Outback Bowl rally that overcame a 25-point deficit against Purdue (largest comeback in bowl history) — and as a junior, expect him to be brilliant.

Georgia's do-everything quarterback is 22, and his maturity makes his talent all the more dangerous.

And, speaking of maturity, let's not forget Florida State's Chris Weinke. He, not Vick, led his team to the 1999 national championship and begins the 2000 season on a 12-game winning streak.

Weinke, the 28-year-old former minor-league third baseman, last year bristled at critics who pointed out that he couldn't run like Vick. And then he went out and made all the right decisions and all the right throws in a four-TD performance in the Seminoles' 46-29 victory over Virginia Tech (and Vick) in the Sugar Bowl.

"Probably my No. 1 attribute is my leadership," the 6-5, 240-pound Weinke said. "Physically, I'll put myself up against anybody in the country at this position."

Now Weinke will be trying to duplicate the feats of Nebraska's Tommie Frazier (1994-95) and Jerry Tagge (1971-72), and Oklahoma's Steve Davis (1974-75), in becoming the fourth quarterback in the past 50 years to lead a team to back-to-back national championships.

"Chris Weinke is the leader of our team," Florida State coach Bobby Bowden said. "Our kids will say that. I don't have to say that. Sometimes you have a leader on offense that the defense will follow. All players follow Weinke."

Funny, sounds like Joe Tiller talking about Drew Brees ... or Jim Donnan about Quincy Carter ... or Frank Solich about Eric Crouch ... or Rick Neuheisel about Marques Tuiasosopo ... or Bobby Stoops about Josh Heupel ... or Cam Cameron about Antwaan Randle-El ... or, perhaps most pointedly of all, Frank Beamer about Michael Vick.

Indeed, it's a quarterback-rich season in college football.

But even with the logjam of talented, experienced players at the top, Vick stands out.

— Don Borst

CBS SportsLine

Lindy's / SportsLine.com 2000 All-America Team

Defensive Player of the Year

JAMAR FLETCHER

Wisconsin's Fletcher Willing, Able to Take on Anybody

It's the closest football comes to the culture of basketball — a cornerback lining up against a receiver.

They're out there alone, man against man. The winner and loser won't be obscured in the trenches. The result will be apparent to everyone.

And they chat.

"Oh, yeah, it's very much like basketball," Wisconsin cornerback Jamar Fletcher said.

"It's just you and the receiver, and you're going to see who's better. It's funny. My freshman year, I never really talked noise on the field. But after I had a pretty good year, the next year, I would run out there and people on the sideline were talking noise to me. Then the receiver would start."

At 5-10 and 170 pounds, Fletcher might lack size, but he does not lack confidence.

"I don't start talking noise," he said. "But I finish it."

Fletcher usually gets the best of the battles, verbal and non-verbal. He has 14 interceptions in 21 games. Five of them he returned for touchdowns, a Big Ten career record.

Think about that for a second: Few wide receivers enter their junior season with five touchdowns. Obviously he knows what to do with the ball once he gets it, having played option quarterback in high school — he once scored five touchdowns in a game.

The thing about Fletcher is that you don't just have to try to beat him ... you have to try to keep him from beating you.

He and the Badgers have won back to back Rose Bowls and now have their sights on the Orange Bowl this season — which means the national championship game.

The biggest games bring out his best efforts. He had seven tackles, including six solos in the Badgers' Rose Bowl vic-

DEFENSE

FIRST TEAM		YR	HT	WT	SCHOOL	
DL	Alex Brown	Jr.	6-4	265	Florida	The best pure pass rusher in the college game.
DL	Wendell Bryant	Jr.	6-4	298	Wisconsin	Best in big games, has had two great Rose Bowls.
DL	Casey Hampton	Sr.	6-1	305	Texas	"Big Hamp" covers field better than many LBs.
DL	Jamal Reynolds	Sr.	6-4	254	Florida State	Latest in a long line of crazy 'Nole pass rushers.
LB	Keith Adams	Jr.	5-11	220	Clemson	Lives in opposing backfield (35 tackles for loss).
LB	Jashon Sykes	Jr.	6-3	230	Colorado	Made 134 tackles despite bad shoulder in '99.
LB	Jamie Winborn	Jr.	6-0	232	Vanderbilt	Has amassed 272 tackles in two seasons.
DB	Andre Dyson	Sr.	5-10	174	Utah	Great cover guy in a league that needs them.
DB	Jamar Fletcher	Jr.	5-10	170	Wisconsin	*Lindy's* National Defensive Player of the Year.
DB	Carl Nesmith	Sr.	6-3	215	Kansas	Nesmith combines big hits with fine pass coverage.
DB	Fred Smoot	Sr.	6-1	179	Mississippi St.	Talks the talk, walks the walk ... he can *play*.
P	Dan Hadenfeldt	Sr.	5-11	195	Nebraska	NU record-holder granted sixth year by NCAA.

SECOND TEAM		YR	HT	WT	SCHOOL	
DL	Andre Carter	Sr.	6-4	260	California	Sprinter who had 20 TFLs, 10 sacks in '99.
DL	Damione Lewis	Sr.	6-3	290	Miami	Four-year starter has keyed team's resurgence.
DL	Richard Seymour	Sr.	6-6	300	Georgia	Standout tackle in a league of fine D-Linemen.
DL	Gerard Warren	Jr.	6-4	310	Florida	Meets Alex Brown at the quarterback.
LB	Pernell Griffin	Jr.	6-3	240	East Carolina	Junior already has more than 200 career tackles.
LB	Dan Morgan	Sr.	6-3	230	Miami	On pace to become 'Cane's all-time top tackler.
LB	Carlos Polk	Sr.	6-2	250	Nebraska	Middle man in Huskers' stifling defense.
DB	Robert Carswell	Sr.	6-0	215	Clemson	Four-year starter sets tone for fine Tiger defense.
DB	Jarrod Cooper	Sr.	6-1	210	Kansas State	Slowed by injuries in '99, ready for big 2000.
DB	Maurice Hines	Sr.	5-7	186	Marshall	Shuts down opposing WRs with Danny Derricott.
DB	Andre Lott	Sr.	5-11	185	Tennessee	Consistent Vol steps to the forefront.
P	Nick Harris	Sr.	6-3	220	California	Averaged 44 yards despite 14 pooch punts.

tory over Stanford. A year earlier in the Rose Bowl, his 46-yard interception return for a touchdown off of a Cade McNown pass turned out to be the margin of victory over UCLA.

Against Michigan State last season, he locked up star receiver Plaxico Burress and had two interceptions in a rout for the Badgers. Against Purdue, he intercepted Drew Brees twice, including one in the fourth quarter that put the game out of reach.

"I think what separates him is anticipation," Wisconsin coach Barry Alvarez said. "Having been a high school quarterback, he can put himself in the quarterback's head. He can see things differently. A lot of guys have the speed and the physical attributes, but I think that somewhere along the line, you need a feel for the game."

Fletcher was a cornerback and option quarterback at Hazelwood (Mo.) East High School near St. Louis. His brother Jason played receiver at Southwestern Louisiana. Because of his height, Jamar had no illusions about playing quarterback in college. But he thought his experience playing a lot of tight man-to-man coverage in high school would serve him well. He chose Wisconsin in part because he saw an opportunity for playing time early in his career. The weather didn't matter.

"I wanted to play in the Big Ten, and I figured that anywhere I went in the Big Ten, there would be bad weather," Fletcher said.

He redshirted as a freshman, once playing the role of former Syracuse quarterback Donovan McNabb for the scout team. The following year, he sprained an ankle on the first play of the season and missed two games. Soon, however, Fletcher established himself as someone with a knack for making big plays.

Alvarez knew he had someone special.

"I had [current Pro Bowl corner] Troy Vincent here, and I had to convince him that he was a great player," Alvarez said. "I had just had Todd Lyght at Notre Dame. First-round pick in the draft. Fifth overall. I told Troy, 'You're bigger, faster, very physical.' The kid looked up at me, and said, 'Really?' "

And Fletcher's confidence?

"That's never a problem with Jamar," Alvarez said. "He sauntered in here — and he was about 150 pounds soaking wet."

Like most cornerbacks, Fletcher is a Deion Sanders fan. Like Sanders, Fletcher wants to play some offense this season.

The trick is convincing Alvarez.

"I would love to play offense," Fletcher said. "I joke around with him. I mean, I'm serious about it. He jokes around. I hope it'll happen."

Alvarez said it probably won't happen.

"I think about that sometimes," Alvarez said. "I thought about it last year. When I see the ball in his hands, he has tremendous running skills. We'll use him on special teams and put him on the opponent's best receiver. I'm concerned about fatigue setting in."

Continuing the Sanders connection, Fletcher says he thinks he could have played professional baseball, which gives you an idea of just how confident he is in his athletic ability.

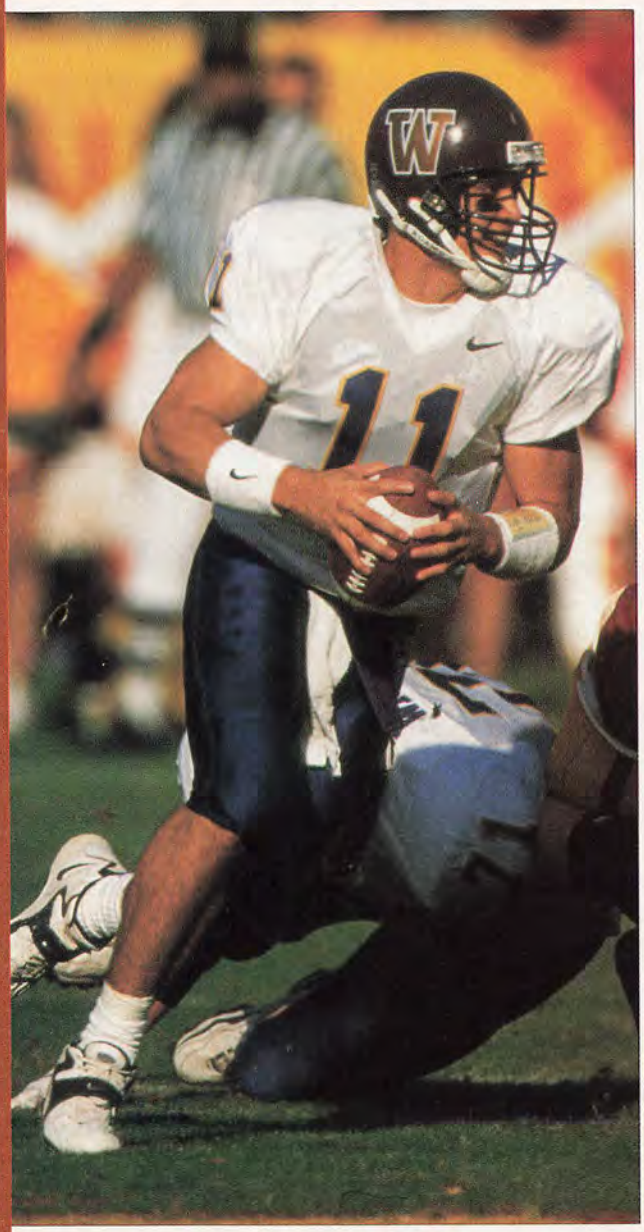
For now, he just might have to be content with football, with defense, with getting ready for the NFL.

"You can't go out there scared," he said. "You have to approach every play like you're going to dominate the receiver. They're the same way. They feel they can't be stopped."

Fletcher will be happy to discuss any disagreements across the line of scrimmage.

— Mark Alesia

Tuiasosopo Scrambles Among Nation's Elite



MARQUES TUIASOSOPO

The day before Halloween, Washington quarterback Marques Tuiasosopo hobbled up the stairs of Husky Stadium, looking like anything but the star of a 35-30 victory over Stanford.

If anything, he moved like someone coming to talk to the press about his game-ending injury or how he was going to deal with the disappointment of an injury that would keep him shelved for a significant period of time.

Then he took a look at the game statistics.

His eyes lit up as if he could suddenly visualize generations of football passing before him.

"I had no idea," Tuiasosopo said. "All I knew was I could barely walk."

Evidently he had no trouble running or passing. On that day, when he suffered severely bruised buttocks on the second play from scrimmage that would affect the rest of his season, the junior quarterback ran wild. Oh yeah, he also passed with versatility and accuracy on a vintage windy autumn afternoon in the Pacific Northwest.

"I didn't want to come out and wasn't going to come out unless I had to," Tuiasosopo said. "That's the coaches' decision. I didn't know what they were thinking. All I knew was, if I'm going to come out, they're going to have to take me out."

While Drew Brees and Michael Vick are the sexier names and better NFL prospects, Tuiasosopo did something that neither of those two, nor anybody else, has ever done in the history of Division I football. Tuiasosopo passed for more than 300 yards (302) and rushed for more than 200 (207) to upset Stanford, which was 5-0 in the Pac-10 prior to his brilliant performance.

Nothing Stanford could do on this particular day could slow him down, not even an injury. Tuiasosopo ran the option flawlessly, scoring touchdowns of 30 and 10 yards. He threw effectively on the run or out of the pocket. He completed 19 of 32 attempts, with one touchdown.

For the season, he rushed for 541 yards and passed for 2,221, leading Washington back from an 0-2 start to a 7-4 regular-season finish — with only an overtime loss at UCLA keeping the Huskies out of the Rose Bowl. They then pushed seventh-ranked Kansas State to the brink in a 24-20 defeat in the Holiday Bowl.

More than anything, this team was — and still is — all about Tuiasosopo.

"He's such a great athlete, it is hard to defend him," Stanford strong safety Tim Smith said. "It is hard to disrupt him. You know you've got problems when you cover the pitch well, but you can't get to the quarterback."

At 6-2, 215, Tuiasosopo is the classic athletic quarterback. Athletic enough that he was recruited by other programs as a safety, including by then-Colorado coach Rick Neuheisel. When Tuiasosopo arrived at Washington as a freshman, he had the understanding that he'd be given a first look as a quarterback … although most observers figured he'd wind up on the defensive side of the ball before too long.

Washington, after all, has been a proving ground for pure dropback passers for the past 25 years. One by one, the Huskies have arrived and left as 6-4, 225-pound flame throwers, guys who also could move just enough to avoid the rush: Guys like Steve Pelluer, Hugh Millen, Cary Conklin, Mark Brunell (OK, he avoids the rush better than most), Billy Joe Hobert, Damon Huard and Brock Huard.

Although he's not the pure thrower, Tuiasosopo's mobility makes him a good fit for what Neuheisel needed in a quarterback last season.

Perhaps most significant "Tooey" is the natural leader the the Huskies need, Neuheisel said. That leadership showed in the victory over Stanford.

"You talk about being capable of putting a team on your shoulders, that takes a special kind of kid to overcome an injury and set a record like that," Neuheisel said. "After that game, he stood up and told the team how much he appreciated them and how honored he was to play with his teammates because they never say die, and then he promptly gave the game ball to the offensive line."

To put up a performance for the ages while injured is representative of his approach to life.

These publications are the season ticket to your favorite college team

Now you can follow your favorite college team no matter where you live. Every publication listed provides player features, game recaps, opponent previews, recruiting updates and much more. *Order your subscription today!*

01. **ALABAMA - 'Bama, Inside the Crimson Tide** 10 magazines, 14 newsletters $35 — bamamag.com
02. **ARIZONA - Cat Tracks** 32 issues, 2 yearbooks, $59 — cattracks.com
03. **ARKANSAS - Hawgs Illustrated** 19 magazines, 2 yearbooks, $44.90 — hawgsillustated.com
04. **AUBURN - Inside the Auburn Tigers** 10 magazines, 11 newsletters, $35 — auburnsports.com
05. **BOSTON COLLEGE - Eagle Action** 12–13 issues, $34.95 — bostoncollege.rivals.com
06. **BYU - Cougar Sports Magazine** 12 issues, $23.95 — cougarsportsmag.com
07. **CENTRAL FLORIDA - Into the Knights** 10 issues, 1 yearbook, $25.95 — intotheknights.com
08. **CINCINNATI - Bearcat Sports Digest** 20 issues, $32.95 — ispsports.com
09. **COLORADO - Buffalo Sports News** 20 issues, 1 yearbook, $39 — buffalosportsnews.com
10. **CONNECTICUT - Husky Blue & White** 14 issues, 1 yearbook, $35
11. **DUKE - Blue Devil Weekly** 25 issues, 1 yearbook, $31.95
12. **EAST CAROLINA - Pirates' Chest** 20 issues, $25
13. **FLORIDA - Gator Bait** 32 issues, 2 yearbooks, $49.95 — gatorbait.net
14. **FLORIDA STATE - Osceola** 34 issues, $48 — osceolanews.com
15. **GEORGIA - Georgia Bulldog Magazine** 13 magazines, 17 newsletters, $30 — georgiadogs.com
16. **GEORGIA TECH - Rambling Wreck** 13 issues, $24.95 — ispsports.com
17. **INDIANA - Inside Indiana** 26 issues, 2 yearbooks, $47 — insideindiana.com
18. **IOWA - Voice of the Hawkeyes** 23 issues, 2 yearbooks, $42.90 — voiceofthehawkeyes.com
19. **IOWA STATE - Cyclone Illustrated** 18 issues, $44.95 — cycloneillustrated.com
20. **KANSAS - Jayhawk Insider** 20 issues, $44.95 — jayhawkinsider.com
21. **KANSAS STATE - Purple Pride** 20 issues, $44.95 — purplepride.com
22. **KENTUCKY - The Cats' Pause** 35 issues, $47.50 — catspause.com
23. **LSU - Tiger Rag** 36 issues, 2 yearbooks, $52 — tigerrag.com
24. **LOUISVILLE - SportsReport** 32 issues, 2 yearbooks, $43.95 — cardinalsports.com
25. **MARYLAND - Terrapin Times** 12 issues, $39.95 — terrapintimes.com
26. **MIAMI - CaneSport** 21 issues first-class mail, $49.95 — thecanes.com
27. **MICHIGAN - Wolverine** 26 issues, 1 yearbook, $44.95 — thewolverine.com
28. **MICHIGAN STATE - Spartan Magazine** 18 issues, $36.95 — spartanmag.com
29. **MISSISSIPPI - Ole Miss Spirit** 32 issues, $40 — omspirit.com
30. **MISSOURI - Inside Mizzou Sports** 20 issues, $44.95 — insidemizzou.com
31. **NEBRASKA - Huskers Illustrated** 17 issues, 1 yearbook, $44.95 — huskersillustrated.com
32. **NORTH CAROLINA - Carolina Blue** 35 issues, $39.95 — carolinablue.com
33. **NORTH CAROLINA STATE - Wolfpacker** 18 issues, 2 yearbooks, $35.95 — thewolfpacker.com
34. **NOTRE DAME - Blue & Gold Illustrated** 20 issues, $39.95 — blueandgold.com
35. **OHIO STATE - Buckeye Sports Bulletin** 30 issues, $50 — buckeyesports.com
36. **OKLAHOMA - Sooners Illustrated** 17 magazines, 1 yearbook, $42.90 — soonersillustrated.com
37. **OKLAHOMA STATE - O-State Sports Report** 16 issues, 1 yearbook, $34.90 — gopokes.com
38. **OREGON - Fighting Ducks Review** 24 issues, $45.50 — fightingducks.com
39. **PENN STATE - Blue White Illustrated** 28 issues, $42 — bluewhite.net
40. **PURDUE - Gold & Black Illustrated** 26 issues, 2 yearbooks, $49.95 — goldandblack.com
41. **SOUTH CAROLINA - Spurs & Feathers** 35 issues, $34 — spursandfeathers.com
42. **SYRACUSE - The Big Orange** 24 issues, $44 — superorange.com
43. **TEMPLE - OwlScoop** 18 issues, $34.95 — owlscoop.com
44. **TENNESSEE - Rocky Top News** 33 magazines, 1 yearbook, $43 — rockytop.com
45. **TENNESSEE - Volunteers Magazine** 25 issues, 2 guides, $34.97 — utsports.com
46. **TEXAS - Horns Illustrated** 20 issues, 1 yearbook, $42.90 — hornsillustrated.com
47. **TEXAS A&M - Ags Illustrated** 17 issues, 1 yearbook, $42.90 — agsillustrated.com
48. **TEXAS TECH - Red Raider Sports** 16 issues, 1 yearbook, $34.90 — redraidersports.com
49. **VANDERBILT - The Commodore Report** 24 issues, 2 yearbooks, $41 — commodorereport.com
50. **VIRGINIA - Cavalier Corner** 12 issues, $27.95 — cavaliercorner.com
51. **VIRGINIA TECH - Hokie Huddler** 33 issues, $37.95 — hokiesportsinfo.com
52. **WAKE FOREST - Gold Rush** 16 issues, $29.95 — ispsports.com
53. **WASHINGTON - Sports Washington** 17 issues, $34.95
54. **WEST VIRGINIA - Blue & Gold News** 32 issues, $32.95 — bluegoldnews.com
55. **WISCONSIN - Inside Wisconsin** 25 issues, $39.95 — insideuw.com

CALL NOW 1-800-276-8401

Number and Name of Publication: No. ☐☐
☐☐☐

TOP BACKFIELDS

1. FLORIDA STATE

When a team wins the national championship and has its quarterback and top three running backs returning … well, you'd be hard-pressed to come up with a more-impressive backfield. That's especially true in this day of leaving for the NFL early.

QB Chris Weinke (3,103 yards, 25 TDs in '99, and 707 yards from breaking the FSU career record of 6,378 yards) shocked the college football world by returning to be a 28-year-old senior. He gives the Seminoles a big edge, and so does the running back combo of Travis Minor and Jeff Chaney, who combined for 1,000 yards rushing last season.

Weinke is taking a shot at joining Nebraska's Tommie Frazier (1994-95) as the only quarterbacks in the past 25 years to lead a team to back-to-back national championships.

2. NEBRASKA

The Cornhuskers are counting on a cast of veteran running backs — along with JC transfer Thunder Collins — to give QB Eric Crouch the complete balance that makes their offense traditionally so powerful. I-Backs Correll Buckhalter, Dan Alexander and Dahrran Diedrick, and fullback Willie Miller, accounted for more than 2,000 rushing yards last year. And here's a question: Does wingback Bobby Newcombe count as part of the backfield?

3. MISSISSIPPI

Deuce McAllister is the No. 1 all-purpose running back in college football … and when he was banged up last year, Joe Gunn bolted to 951 yards. QB Romaro Miller became a real play-maker last season, and looks for a big senior year before giving the job to heir apparent Eli Manning, a redshirt freshman.

4. GEORGIA

Sometimes, the sensational Quincy Carter can be a complete backfield all by himself. But Jasper Sanks seemed to hit his stride last year in an 896-yard season, and the Bulldogs have some good young runners, too.

5. MIAMI

The 'Canes have an embarrassment of RB riches — four quality guys, led by James Jackson, who will have to split the time. Sophomore QB Ken Dorsey is a keeper, although this will be his first year as a full-time starter.

6. VIRGINIA TECH

QB Michael Vick is a whole offense by himself, and Tech could have been close to No. 1 if Shyrone Stith had stayed in school. As it is, Andre Kendrick and promising sophomore Lee Suggs will be just fine.

7. EAST CAROLINA

David Garrard took a lot of ribbing about being the widest quarterback in Conference USA, but with 2,852 yards of total offense last year, now people call him the best. And with RB Jamie Wilson toting the pigskin, these Pirates are wildly productive.

8. TEXAS CHRISTIAN

Everybody knows about LaDainian Tomlinson and his national-best 1,850 rushing yards last season, but sophomore QB Casey Printers is one to watch, too, and will carry a bigger load this season.

9. MARYLAND

RB LaMont Jordan is the marquee guy in the Terps' backfield (he averaged 183.5 yards in the last six games), and improving QB Calvin McCall completes the package as Maryland finally gets to a bowl.

10. ALABAMA

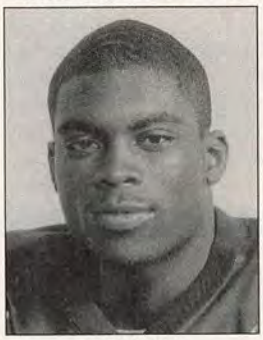
The Tide's doubly dangerous quarterback situation (Andrew Zow and Tyler Watts), and fine young stable of tailbacks offers the kind of depth that even teams higher on this list envy.

TOP QUARTERBACKS

Rk	Name	Yr	Ht	Wt	College
1.	Michael Vick	So.	6-1	212	Virginia Tech
2.	Drew Brees	Sr.	6-1	215	Purdue
3.	Quincy Carter	Jr.	6-2	220	Georgia
4.	Chris Weinke	Sr.	6-5	240	Florida State
5.	Eric Crouch	Jr.	6-1	195	Nebraska
6.	Kurt Kittner	Jr.	6-3	205	Illinois
7.	Antwaan Randle El	Jr.	5-10	185	Indiana
8.	Marques Tuiasosopo	Sr.	6-2	215	Washington
9.	Josh Heupel	Sr.	6-2	210	Oklahoma
10.	Romaro Miller	Sr.	6-1	195	Mississippi
11.	Brooks Bollinger	So.	6-2	207	Wisconsin
12.	Carson Palmer	Jr.	6-5	220	Southern California
13.	Ben Leard	Sr.	6-4	225	Auburn
14.	Dusty Bonner	Jr.	6-2	217	Kentucky
15.	Ken Dorsey	Jr.	6-5	195	Miami
16.	David Garrard	Sr.	6-3	235	East Carolina
17.	Rashard Casey	Sr.	6-1	205	Penn State
18.	Drew Henson	Jr.	6-4	218	Michigan
19.	Ortege Jenkins	Sr.	6-2	216	Arizona
20.	David Neill	Jr.	6-5	202	Nevada
21.	Jesse Palmer	Sr.	6-2	225	Florida
22.	Woodrow Dantzler	Jr.	5-11	200	Clemson
23.	Jason Thomas	So.	6-4	240	UNLV
24.	Vic Penn	Sr.	6-1	180	Central Florida
25.	Bart Hendricks	Sr.	6-0	205	Boise State

Not rated due to injury: Ronald Curry (North Carolina), Major Applewhite (Texas)

LINDY'S ALL-AMERICAN



MICHAEL VICK

No doubt his background in sports has something to do with it. His father, Manu Tuiasosopo, was a star defensive lineman at UCLA and played in the NFL for the 49ers and Seahawks.

He has no fewer than 13 relatives who have competed in Division I sports, ranging from his father to his sister Leslie, who played volleyball at UW.

"One minute he's limping and can barely walk, then the next, he's sprinting out on a 60-yard run," guard Chad Ward said. "It's an amazing testament to his character that he could pull through an injury and put up numbers like that. You kind of laugh to yourself and say, 'I'm glad I'm not a defensive player trying to contain him.' "

— Mike Kahn

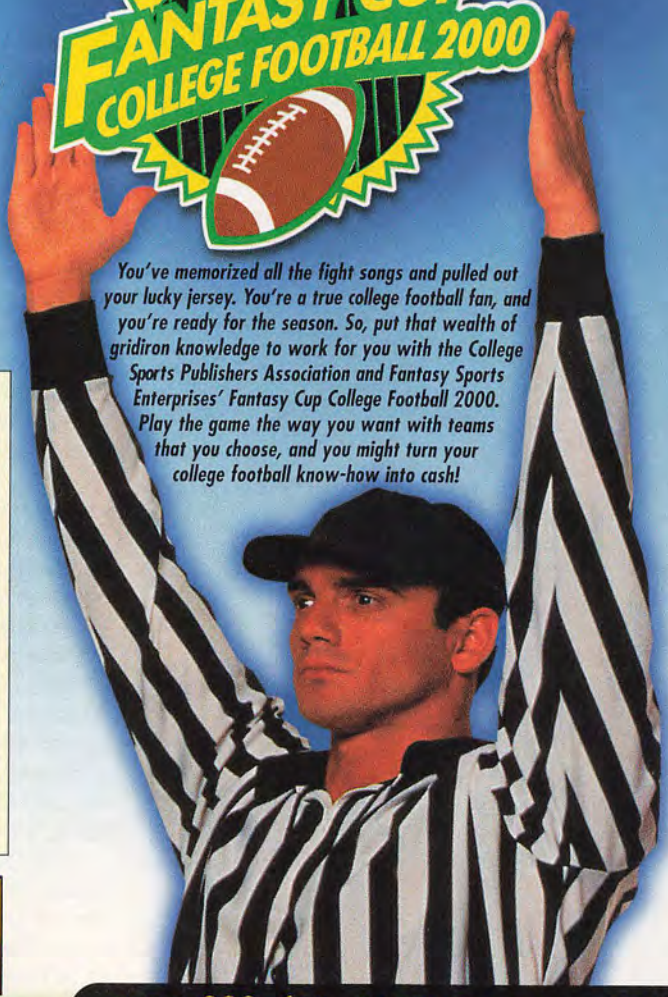
OVER $70,000 GIVEN AWAY

GRAND PRIZE $20,000

GIVE FANTASY FOOTBALL THE OLD COLLLEGE TRY

FANTASY CUP COLLEGE FOOTBALL 2000

You've memorized all the fight songs and pulled out your lucky jersey. You're a true college football fan, and you're ready for the season. So, put that wealth of gridiron knowledge to work for you with the College Sports Publishers Association and Fantasy Sports Enterprises' Fantasy Cup College Football 2000. Play the game the way you want with teams that you choose, and you might turn your college football know-how into cash!



How do I play?

- Select eight teams (no more or less) from the list below without exceeding your $10 million play budget.
- Your eight teams will score points each week based on how they perform on the field. See point scoring system below.

FANTASY CUP College Football SCORING SYSTEM

Every Point Scored = ... 1 point

Bonus Points (Offense)
Passing Yards over 300 = ... 5 points
Rushing Yards over 200 = ... 5 points
Every Sack Allowed = ... -1 point
Interceptions = ... -1 point

Bonus Points (Defense)
Passing Yards under 150 = ... 5 points
Rushing Yards under 100 = ... 5 points
Every Sack = ... 1 point
Every Interception = ... 1 point

Bonus Points (Team)
Win = ... 10 points
Loss = ... -10 points
Shutout = ... 10 points
Getting Shutout = ... -10 points
Upset Top 25 Team = ... 20 points
Beat Lesser Top 25 Team = ... 10 points

What do I win?

GRAND PRIZE	**$20,000**
2nd Place	$5,000
3rd Place	$2,000
4th Place	$1,000
5th Place	$500
6th - 10th Place	$250
11th - 25th Place	$100
26th - 100th Place	Customized Cutter & Buck polo shirt worth $75

Weekly Prizes

1st Place	$300
2nd Place	$200
3rd Place	$100
4th Place	$75
5th Place	$50
6th - 10th Place	$25
11th - 25th Place	$20
26th - 100th Place	Selection of cool merchandise worth $20 each

How do I register?

CALL OUR OPERATORS AT:
888-611-SACK FOR CREDIT CARD AND CHECK ORDERS

PLAY ONLINE www.fantasycup.com

JOIN US IN OUR THIRD YEAR FOR ONLY $99.95! FREE TRADES, FREE RESULTS, LIVE OPERATORS FOR ASSISTANCE

a member of the goracing.com network

CSPA College Sports Publishers Association

Call 888-611-SACK for your FREE rule book today!

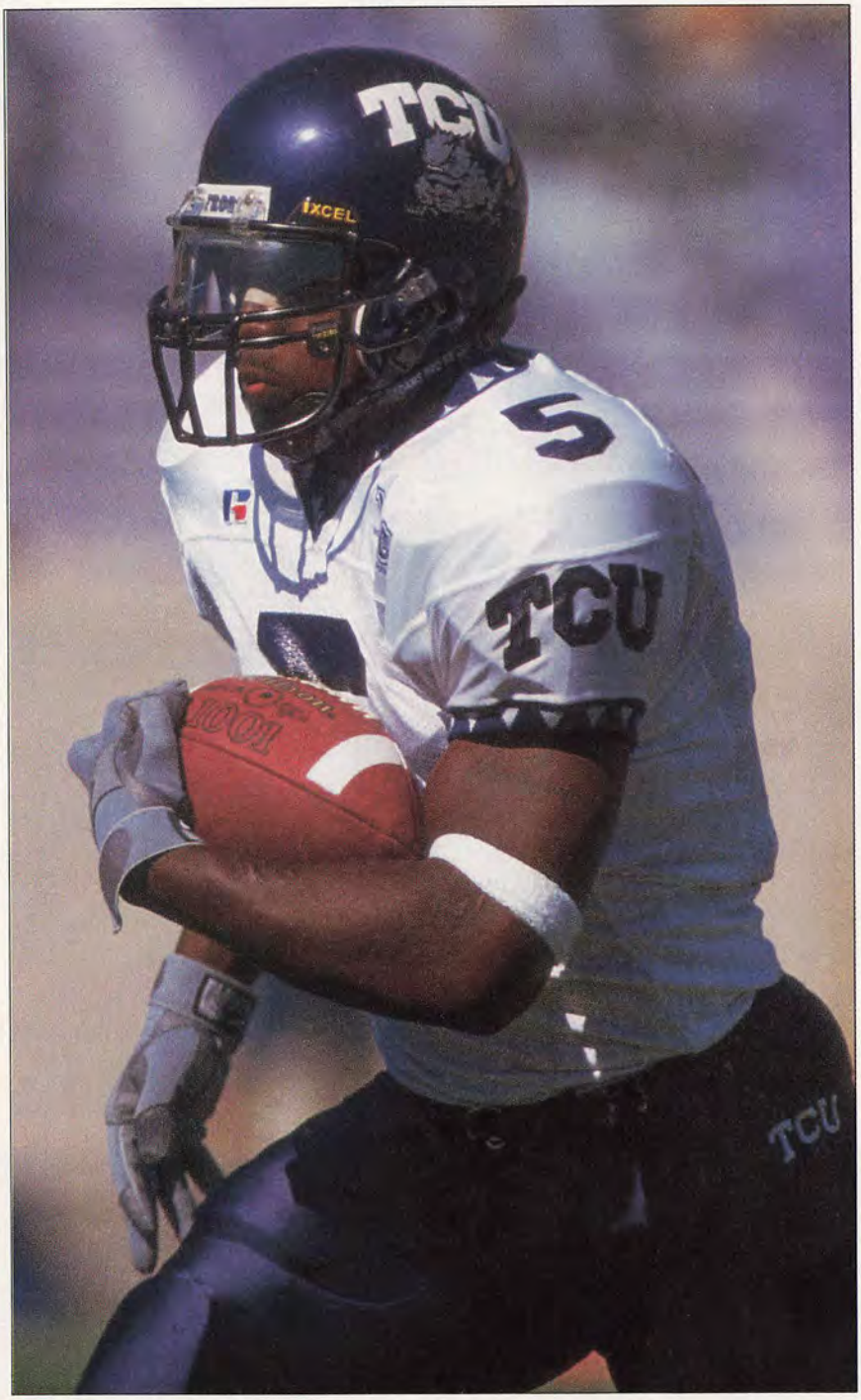
✔ PUT TOGETHER YOUR TEAM FOR THE OPENING KICKOFF BY SEPTEMBER 2, 2000

❑ Air Force $965,000	❑ Houston $790,000	❑ Navy $650,000	❑ Texas $1,840,000
❑ Alabama $1,720,000	❑ Idaho $875,000	❑ Nebraska $2,200,000	❑ Texas A&M $1,550,000
❑ Alabama-Birmingham . $390,000	❑ Illinois $1,065,000	❑ New Mexico State $360,000	❑ Texas Christian $1,180,000
❑ Arizona $1,135,000	❑ Indiana $515,000	❑ North Carolina $450,000	❑ Texas Tech $715,000
❑ Arizona State $790,000	❑ Iowa $300,000	❑ North Carolina State ... $750,000	❑ Toledo $710,000
❑ Arkansas $1,500,000	❑ Kansas $420,000	❑ Notre Dame $1,165,000	❑ Tulane $380,000
❑ Army $300,000	❑ Kansas State $2,175,000	❑ Ohio State $1,400,000	❑ UCLA $1,000,000
❑ Auburn $835,000	❑ Kentucky $915,000	❑ Oklahoma $1,350,000	❑ Utah $1,475,000
❑ Boise State $1,000,000	❑ Louisiana Tech $1,090,000	❑ Oklahoma State $775,000	❑ Vanderbilt $550,000
❑ Boston College $900,000	❑ Louisville $1,100,000	❑ Oregon $1,650,000	❑ Virginia $1,220,000
❑ Brigham Young $1,310,000	❑ LSU $575,000	❑ Oregon State $1,170,000	❑ Virginia Tech $2,110,000
❑ California $350,000	❑ Marshall $1,870,000	❑ Penn State $1,785,000	❑ Wake Forest $835,000
❑ Clemson $1,240,000	❑ Maryland $760,000	❑ Pittsburgh $610,000	❑ Washington $1,250,000
❑ Colorado $1,270,000	❑ Memphis $510,000	❑ Purdue $1,625,000	❑ West Virginia $660,000
❑ Colorado State $1,285,000	❑ Miami-Florida $1,700,000	❑ Rice $460,000	❑ Western Michigan $825,000
❑ East Carolina $1,245,000	❑ Miami-Ohio $850,000	❑ San Diego State $810,000	❑ Wisconsin $2,050,000
❑ Florida $2,080,000	❑ Michigan $1,765,000	❑ Southern Mississippi . $1,485,000	❑ Wyoming $950,000
❑ Florida State $2,255,000	❑ Michigan State $1,925,000	❑ South Carolina $300,000	
❑ Fresno State $1,005,000	❑ Minnesota $1,375,000	❑ Southern Calif. (USC) . $1,075,000	
❑ Georgia $1,525,000	❑ Mississippi $1,265,000	❑ Stanford $1,400,000	
❑ Georgia Tech $1,730,000	❑ Mississippi State $1,325,000	❑ Syracuse $1,110,000	
❑ Hawaii $740,000	❑ Missouri $400,000	❑ Tennessee $1,950,000	

Any Division 1-A School not listed is $300,000. "Transitional" 1-A schools (i.e. South Florida) are eligible to be selected as well.

* Void where prohibited. Not officially affiliated with NCAA or any school. No purchase necessary. Must be 18 years of age. Deadline: Opening kickoff on September 16, 2000 to be eligible for the Grand Prize. Values above are valid for the first two weekends of the Challenge.

Tomlinson Sees No Goal As Unattainable



LaDAINIAN TOMLINSON

If the Heisman Trophy were awarded for honesty and ambition, then LaDainian Tomlinson wouldn't need the publicity machine that Texas Christian University is cranking up on his behalf. He'd win it in a landslide.

"I would like to get 2,000 yards rushing and score anywhere from 20 to 30 touchdowns," said the young man who clearly believes in setting lofty goals. "I'd like to be first team All-America and Player of the Year in my conference. I'd like to win the Doak Walker Award and, most certainly, win the Heisman Trophy." Fair enough.

If Tomlinson even remotely approaches those goals, he will help lead TCU into the Top 25, continuing one of college football's most remarkable turnarounds that will take the Horned Frogs to their third straight bowl appearance.

"And," he adds before taking a breath, "I'd like to be the MVP of the bowl game, too."

If it sounds like "LT" can talk the talk, understand that he can also run the run.

After all, Tomlinson outran Heisman winner Ron Dayne last season, leading the nation in rushing, with 1,850 yards (16 more than Dayne). And Tomlinson has tread where no man has gone before — running for an NCAA Division I-A single-game record of 406 yards, on 43 attempts, against Texas El-Paso.

He is a ground hog in a conference famous for its aerial fireworks, which suits coach Dennis Franchione just fine. Especially when some of his most difficult decisions involve Tomlinson's assault on the record books. Tomlinson had 287 yards in the second half of that game against UTEP, sending statisticians to the record books and working furiously to get a message to Franchione in the waning moments of an otherwise forgettable game.

"I remember we got ahead 17-0 in the first quarter, then turned the ball over a couple of times and got out of sync," Franchione said. "It was 17-17 at halftime, and the other team's offense was moving pretty well. We were struggling for direction, and I finally said, 'Let's just give the ball to No. 5 for awhile.' "

With Tomlinson tearing up huge slices of real estate, the ball-control offense worked to perfection. The Frogs were within a few minutes of a 52-24 victory, when Franchione got the message from the press box.

"They said, 'Coach, if he gets 15 more yards he breaks the all-time — all-time — rushing record,' " Franchione said, repeating himself for emphasis. "He had over 390 yards rushing, and I had no idea, I was so ingrained into the game."

By the time he claimed the honor, Tomlinson might have been the last person at rollicking Amon G. Carter Stadium to realize he had rewritten the rushing record book. But that's the way he is, even though he'll express confidence with his goals.

"He's a fine kid, a good person and a great team guy," Franchione said. "LaDainian has gotten some attention, and deservedly so when you lead the nation in rushing and do something nobody has ever done in over 100 years

Casablanca Makes Playing Sports Magic!

- Fully Licensed and Insured
- One Free Payout Monthly
- 24 x 7 Customer Service
- 10% BONUS
- Seven Day a Week Payouts

Call now 1-800-689-2600 & mention #222
to recieve a FREE Football Handbook.
Complete with stats, predictions & a full years schedule.
No Obligation & delivered in three business days.

betGBS.com
casablanca sportsbook & casino

The Magic Starts Here...

1-800-689-2600

MasterCard VISA WESTERN UNION A First Data Company

LINDY'S ALL-AMERICANS

DEUCE McALLISTER

LaMONT JORDAN, MARYLAND

of college football. His teammates savor his success as their success and LT makes sure that feeling permeates to every one of them."

No wonder Franchione is so willing to deflect credit for TCU's transition, saying, "In many ways, this is LT's team."

Maybe so, but even Tomlinson wonders where his team might be had Franchione not arrived two years ago. Tomlinson and the rest of a senior class numbering 29 had endured, as freshmen, a 1-10 season.

Tomlinson could have had his pick of Big 12 schools, yet chose TCU because he wanted to play immediately rather than be redshirted as a freshman.

Now here he was second-guessing himself.

Enter Franchione.

"There were certainly times here when I was a freshman that it seemed like we didn't have any hope at all. We were just really down and out," Tomlinson said. "Then Coach Fran and his staff came along, and they instilled in us a confidence we never had before. They showed us how to win. They helped us realize we had the talent here, but we didn't know how to use it. They taught us how to hold a lead and finish a ball game."

The other theory, offered by Franchione himself, suggests that the coaches just figured out their meal ticket was in the backfield and, as they did against UTEP and most every other opponent, put their fate on Tomlinson's powerful legs.

"The one thing we keep track of during a game is how many times he touches the football," Franchione said, acknowledging he likes to give Tomlinson the ball between 25 and 40 times a game. "We make sure he carries the ball enough, and we don't alter our plan. We do what it takes to win the football game."

Seems to work. In two seasons since Franchione arrived, the Horned Frogs own a 15-9 record with bowl victories each season. They even earned a few votes in Top 25 balloting last season, making the probation that rocked the program in the early 1990s a distant memory.

But not as distant as the only Heisman Trophy won by a TCU player. That happened in 1939, when Davey O'Brien won it. Three years earlier, Sammy Baugh finished second in the balloting. The closest a TCU player has come since was in 1986, when Kenneth Davis finished sixth in Heisman voting.

In December, Tomlinson finished 14th among Heisman vote-getters and fourth in balloting for the Doak Walker Award.

This season, with his entire offensive line returning, as well as his quarterback and fullback, the possibilities are limitless for a back whose style reminds Franchione of Dallas Cowboys star Emmitt Smith.

"He's the total package," Franchione said. "He'll block. He'll catch the ball. And he has speed and power. That's what makes him so special is that he has all the qualities. Not just the power. Not just the moves."

— Keith Gave

TOP RUNNING BACKS

Rk	Name	Yr	Ht	Wt	College
1.	LaMont Jordan	Sr.	5-11	210	Maryland
2.	Deuce McAllister	Sr.	6-1	220	Mississippi
3.	LaDainian Tomlinson	Sr.	5-11	217	TCU
4.	Anthony Thomas	Sr.	6-2	225	Michigan
5.	James Jackson	Sr.	5-11	215	Miami
6.	Hodges Mitchell	Sr.	5-7	190	Texas
7.	Travis Henry	Sr.	5-11	220	Tennessee
8.	T.J. Duckett	So.	6-2	255	Michigan State
9.	Cedric Cobbs	So.	6-2	220	Arkansas
10.	Travis Minor	Sr.	6-1	190	Florida State
11.	Larry Ned	Sr.	5-11	210	San Diego State
12.	Dan Alexander	Sr.	6-0	245	Nebraska
13.	Ken Simonton	Jr.	5-7	175	Oregon State
14.	Avon Cobourne	So.	5-8	190	West Virginia
15.	DeShaun Foster	Jr.	6-1	217	UCLA
16.	Earnest Graham	So.	5-9	214	Florida
17.	Jasper Sanks	Jr.	6-0	226	Georgia
18.	Cortlen Johnson	Jr.	5-9	195	Colorado
19.	Paul Arnold	So.	6-1	200	Washington
20.	Chester Taylor	Sr.	5-11	199	Toledo
21.	Cedric Washington	Sr.	5-10	201	Boston College
22.	Damien Anderson	Jr.	5-11	208	Northwestern
23.	Derrick Nix	Jr.	6-1	223	Southern Miss
24.	Delvon Flowers	Sr.	5-11	185	Arizona State
25.	Deonce Whitaker	Sr.	5-6	175	San Jose State
26.	Jamie Wilson	Sr.	6-1	205	East Carolina
27.	Montrell Lowe	So.	5-8	189	Purdue
28.	Deon Burnett	So.	5-10	210	Washington State
29.	Ray Robinson	Jr.	5-10	202	N.C. State
30.	Rocky Harvey	Jr.	5-9	180	Illinois

Not rated due to injury: Ricky Williams (Texas Tech), Luke Staley (BYU)

THE WIDEST 4TH DOOR IS HERE.

SIERRA

The GMC Sierra is a full-size pickup that knows how to greet its passengers, and it all starts with extra-wide doors, the widest 4th door opening in its class*. Doors that welcome you into its roomy and spacious interior. An interior with more front headroom and rear legroom* than any other full-size pickup in its class. For more information on this exceptional truck go to www.gmc.com/sierra or call 877-GMC-SIERRA.

USA

36 USC 380
Official Sponsor of the 2000 U.S. Olympic Team

*Excludes other GM vehicles.

©2000 GM Corp. All rights reserved. Sierra, GMC and the GMC logo are registered trademarks of General Motors Corporation.

GMC

Do one thing. Do it well.™

Miami's Moss-powered Offense Rolls Along

Top Receiver Corps

1. PITTSBURGH

Pittsburgh? Well, yes ... the school name doesn't carry as much weight as others on this list, but the Panthers have a pair of playmakers Dan Marino would have been proud to throw to.

A couple of things about Latef Grim: He's largely underappreciated on a national level, but he's a two-time All-Big East performer who hauled in a conference-record 75 catches last season. Very nice.

Mix him with sophomore Antonio Bryant, and the Pitt passing game becomes lethal. Exhibit A: Bryant scorched Virginia Tech's nasty defense and NFL-bound corners for 215 yards on 13 receptions last season.

Grim and Bryant combined for 126 catches and almost 2,000 yards in 1999, and should be even more productive this season.

2. MIAMI

It's like the old days at wideout in Coral Gables. Santana Moss and Reggie Wayne are perhaps the most sensational duo of wide receivers in the country, but it is the depth of this group that makes it so imposing. Moss and Daryl Jones are collegiate sprint stars, and Andre King helps to provide big plays, too.

3. UCLA

Injuries held this group back last season, but Brian Poli-Dixon (he of the tall, lean, NFL-ready body) and Freddie Mitchell (he of the flashy NFL open-field moves) are ready to roll in 2000. Great recruiting classes make the UCLA reserves deep and capable.

4. TENNESSEE

A new Vols QB has every key pass receiver returning, and guys like Cedrick Wilson, Eric Parker and Donte' Stallworth will make the transition easier. This group was young in '99, imposing in 2000, and will be thoroughly frightening in 2001.

5. KANSAS STATE

K-State tills the junior colleges as well as anyone, and that's where it came up with sensational Quincy Morgan, who averaged nearly 24 yards a catch last season. Aaron Lockett took care of some of the shorter stuff ... and has the speed to take it the distance, too.

6. PURDUE

With that fabulous offensive system, Purdue would never be caught short of big-time targets, which include speedy Vinny Sutherland and all-conference tight end Tim Stratton. Somebody else will step up, too ... perhaps former Parade All-American A.T. Simpson.

7. FLORIDA STATE

Peter Warrick is gone. Ron Dugans is gone. So why are these guys here? Well, there's sensational soph Anquan Bolden and guys like Marvin Minnis and Atrews Bell, who were waiting in the wings. And mix in the top JC wideout in the country (Javon Walker).

8. OHIO STATE

Ken-Yon Rambo has kind of been slapped with an "underachiever" label, although there isn't much wrong with his production (41 catches, 833 yards, six TDs). Reggie Germany has good size, good numbers, and better hands, too.

9. ALABAMA

Freddie Milons is the kind of player you can build an offense around, and with Shaun Alexander off to the NFL, Alabama will make Milons the focus of the offense, getting him the ball every which way.

10. HAWAII

June Jones signed five QBs in hopes of replacing Dan Robinson, and whoever ends up under center will have the benefit of throwing to Channon Harris, Craig Stutzmann and Ashley Lelie, who combined for 155 receptions for 2,036 yards and 16 TDs last season.

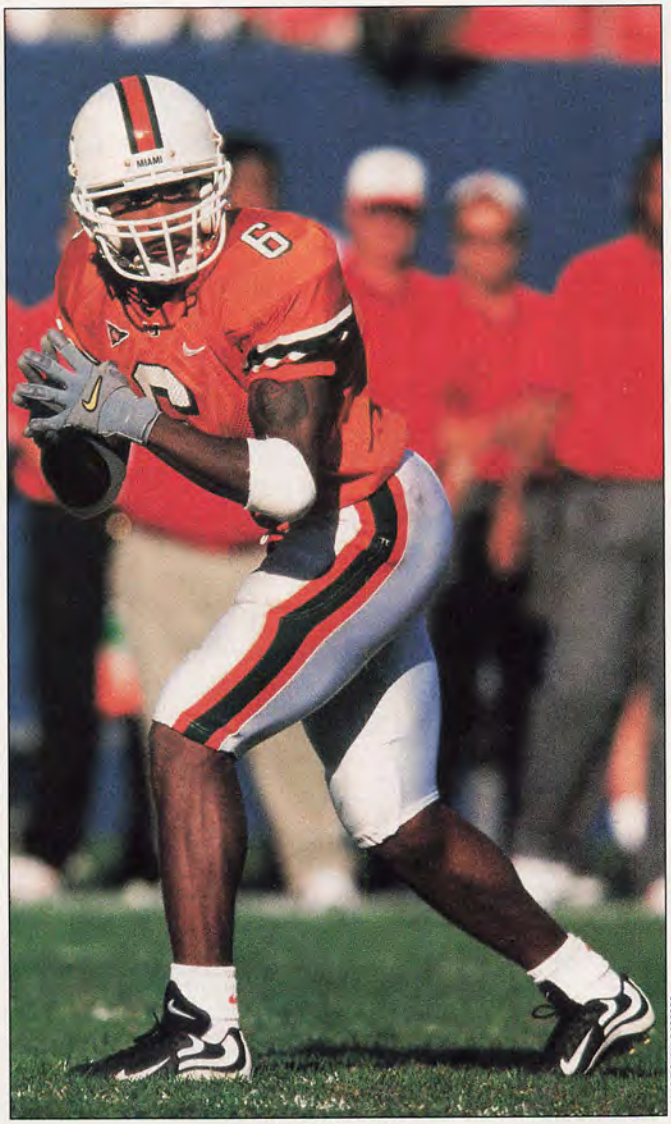


PHOTO BY RRRRRR

SANTANA MOSS

Talent at the skill positions is something the Miami Hurricanes always seem to have aplenty.

And 2000 is no exception, with offensive coordinator Larry Coker sitting up in his perch with any number of options available to him ...

Should he bark into his headset to give it to running backs James Jackson, Clinton Portis or Najeh Davenport?

Or let young gunslinger Ken Dorsey wing it to a plethora of talented receivers?

Coker has more tools at his disposal than Bob Vila. Most of all, he has a former walkon.

Lindy's/SportsLine.com All-American Santana Moss returns for his senior season and should continue to be one of the most electrifying players in college football.

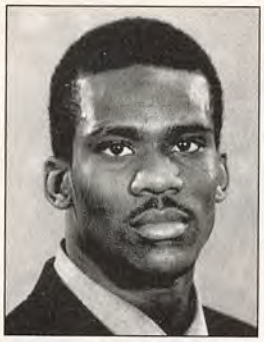
Moss, a Peter Warrick-clone when it comes to making big plays, is the crowning jewel to an already star-studded 'Canes offense.

The 5-10 flashy wideout has been a riddle opposing defenses have been unable to solve. Clocked with 4.3 speed in the 40-yard dash, Moss can stretch defenses to their limits. He also can turn a

LINDY'S ALL-AMERICANS

TODD HEAP, ARIZONA STATE

SANTANA MOSS, MIAMI



DAVID TERRELL, MICHIGAN

short pass into a highlight-making touchdown jaunt.

Last season, he finished with 54 catches for 899 yards and six touchdowns. On special teams, Moss posed just as much of a threat — scoring two touchdowns while averaging 14 yards a punt return.

And like any prime time player, Moss saved his best for the biggest games. In Miami's opener against Ohio State in the Kickoff Classic, Moss hauled in three passes for 115 yards and a touchdown.

Against Penn State, he grabbed four passes for 67 yards and a touchdown.

At intrastate rival Florida State, Moss had his national coming out party. He finished with nine receptions for 180 yards and two touchdowns, including an 80-yarder against a relentless Seminoles defense.

To put it simply, every time No. 6 was on the field for the Hurricanes, he was a threat to put up points equal to the numeral on his jersey.

"I consider myself a total threat," Moss said. "If you need me to block, I'm going to block. If you need me to go deep, I'll go deep. Need me to catch a one-yard pass and turn it up field, I'll do that. As far as punt returns and special teams, I'll do whatever it takes for me to be better and whatever it takes for us to win. Whenever the ball comes to me, I'm going to get the job done."

Moss has been able to get the job done thanks to a strong work ethic. He arrived at Miami as a walkon in 1997. Before the third game of the '97 season, Hurricanes coach Butch Davis awarded Moss with a scholarship. And he has been a mainstay in Miami's aerial assault ever since.

"It's all about working hard," Moss said. "I've always been a hard worker. My mom taught me that hard work pays off, and that's all I'm trying to do — work hard and get better. To me, if you want to get the things you want you have to work hard for them."

Moss returns for his senior campaign with expectations as high as his team's. After toiling through a probationary period that limited scholarships, Miami is back to full strength. This year will be a pivotal year for Davis' continued reconstruction of the program with home games against the two teams who met for last season's national championship in the Sugar Bowl — Florida State and Virginia Tech.

The 'Canes ended last season with their first Jan. 1 bowl (a Gator Bowl victory over Georgia Tech) since 1996 and a No.15 ranking in the Associated Press poll. Miami is expected to finish where it left off a season ago — and so is Moss.

"Last year is last year," Moss said. "I can't be concerned about what we did or what I did. That's in the past. We have a lot of focus on our team right now, and that's good. But it won't mean anything if we don't continue to work hard and get better. That's what I'm trying to do as a senior. I really don't say too much, I just go out there and try to lead by example."

Moss' play on the field speaks for itself. And it is a big reason why big things are expected from him and the Hurricanes' offense this season.

"He's very important to our offense," Coker said. "Not everybody has a player like a Santana Moss, who has that type of speed, that type of explosiveness as well as the ability to catch the football."

Oh, to have Larry Coker's headset.

— Marcus Carmouche

TOP WIDE RECEIVERS

Rk	Name	Yr	Ht	Wt	College
1.	Santana Moss	Sr.	5-10	175	Miami
2.	David Terrell	Jr.	6-3	200	Michigan
3.	Quincy Morgan	Sr.	6-2	215	Kansas State
4.	Ronney Daniels	So.	6-1	207	Auburn
5.	Freddie Milons	Jr.	5-11	183	Alabama
6.	Andre' Davis	Jr.	6-1	200	Virginia Tech
7.	Latef Grim	Sr.	6-0	185	Pittsburgh
8.	Kelly Campbell	Jr.	5-11	170	Georgia Tech
9.	Arnold Jackson	Sr.	5-8	160	Louisville
10.	Nate Poole	Sr.	6-1	186	Marshall
11.	Kareem Kelly	So.	6-1	185	Southern California
12.	Cedrick Wilson	Sr.	5-10	170	Tennessee
13.	Terrence Edwards	So.	6-2	175	Georgia
14.	Aaron Lockett	Jr.	5-7	160	Kansas State
15.	Brian Poli-Dixon	Jr.	6-5	218	UCLA
16.	Freddie Mitchell	Jr.	6-0	188	UCLA
17.	Jerel Myers	So.	5-11	169	LSU
18.	Margin Hooks	Sr.	5-10	175	BYU
19.	Javon Green	Sr.	6-2	215	Colorado
20.	Khori Ivy	Sr.	6-2	190	West Virginia
21.	Vinny Sutherland	Sr.	5-10	185	Purdue
22.	Antonio Bryant	So.	6-2	180	Pittsburgh
23.	Chris Chambers	Sr.	6-1	206	Wisconsin
24.	DeRonnie Pitts	Sr.	5-11	195	Stanford
25.	Reggie Germany	Sr.	6-2	195	Ohio State
26.	Reggie Wayne	Sr.	6-1	195	Miami
27.	Ken-Yon Rambo	Sr.	6-1	190	Ohio State
28.	Rod Gardner	Sr.	6-4	215	Clemson
29.	Kahlil Hill	Jr.	6-3	185	Iowa
30.	Rodney Wright	Sr.	5-9	175	Fresno State

TOP TIGHT ENDS

Rk	Name	Yr	Ht	Wt	College
1.	Todd Heap	Jr.	6-5	232	Arizona State
2.	Tracey Wistrom	Jr.	6-5	220	Nebraska
3.	Jabari Holloway	Sr.	6-3	260	Notre Dame
4.	Alge Crumpler	Sr.	6-3	260	North Carolina
5.	Marcellus Rivers	Jr.	6-4	225	Oklahoma State
6.	Brandon Manumaleuna	Sr.	6-2	288	Arizona
7.	Terry Jones Jr.	Jr.	6-3	262	Alabama
8.	Brian Natkin	Sr.	6-3	245	UTEP
9.	Tim Stratton	Jr.	6-4	252	Purdue
10.	Antoine Harris	Sr.	6-4	250	Southern California

Nebraska Sends Message Via Special Ground Delivery

PHOTO BY TIM BROEKEMA / ALLSPORT

DOMINIC RAIOLA (CENTER)

The talk around college football was that Nebraska's offensive line just wasn't as good as it used to be.

In 1998, the Cornhuskers' rushing average of 254 yards a game ranked sixth in the nation, but was the lowest at Nebraska since 1976.

Last year, the average was 266 yards, best in the Big 12 and fourth in the nation ... but, still, not impressive by Nebraska standards.

But when it came right down to it, in the Fiesta Bowl against Tennessee, the 1999-2000 Nebraska offensive line sent a message. Special delivery against the vaunted Vols defense, the message covered 96 yards.

And if that wasn't enough, the Cornhuskers' line hand-delivered another, going the full 99 yards to make sure it was received loud and clear.

Those two decisive second-half drives put away the Volunteers in the 31-21 Fiesta Bowl triumph, a game that really wasn't that close, considering the way the Huskers could move the ball at will in the second half.

"That put an exclamation point behind the fact that they had developed into the kind of line that we wanted them to develop into," coach Frank Solich said.

The bulk of the line is back this season, with three of the five starters weighing in at over 300 pounds. Junior center Dominic Raiola and senior right guard Russ Hochstein are the hallmark players on what appears to be a special offensive line.

Junior Dave Volk, who started at right tackle, will move to the left side to make room for sixth-year senior Jason Schwab, who sat out last season after having knee surgery. Taking over at left guard is 6-4, 330-pound sophomore Toniu Fonoti, who saw significant playing time last year.

"People expect Nebraska to have the dominant offensive line that just crushes people," said Raiola, a *Lindy's*/SportsLine.com preseason All-American. "We were beaten four times in 1998, and a lot of times we didn't show the dominance we had shown in the past, so we deserved the criticism.

"But that last game against Tennessee, we proved the critics wrong."

Quarterback Eric Crouch insists he never doubted that the line would return to top form.

"They took a lot of heat," Crouch said, "and it showed a lot of character to come back at the end of the year and dominate a football game against Tennessee. That proved to the country that they're back where they want to be."

When Nebraska's offensive machine was running in high gear in the 1980s and '90s — winning 11 national rushing titles along the way — 400-yard games were the norm. But two years ago, because of heavy graduation losses, the Huskers had to

Top Offensive Lines

1. FLORIDA STATE

Can they do it again?

Well, yeah, with what is seen as possibly the best offensive line in Tallahassee since ... well, since ever.

Four starters return up front from an offense that averaged 425 yards a game. Tackle Tarlos Thomas and guards Justin Amman and Jerry Carmichael are the seniors ... but 6-6, 315-pound sophomore Brett Williams looks like he has the goods to turn out to be the best of all.

It's up to them to keep the old man behind them upright (that would be quarterback Chris Weinke rather than coach Bobby Bowden), as well as create more of a push for the rushing offense.

2. ALABAMA

Chris Samuels heads to the NFL ... and Alabama immediately plugs in the "next Chris Samuels." Sophomore Dante Ellington moves from right tackle to the crucial left tackle spot and 'Bama isn't expected to miss a beat, not with three other starters coming back.

3. NEBRASKA

Nothing unusual here. Just lots of big, talented dudes ready to block out the sun ... and any defensive players who happen to get in the way. Center Dominic Raiola leads a group of four returning starters (including Jason Schwab, who missed the 1999 season with a knee injury).

4. MICHIGAN

Hey, haven't guard Steve Hutchinson and tackle Jeff Backus been at UM for like, eight years? These seasoned vets are the heart of a talented line that is expected to improve upon a 129.5-yard a game rushing average.

5. WISCONSIN

With a trio of four-year starters inside — LG Bill Ferrario, C Casey Rabach, RG Dave Costa — running up the middle sounds like a strong idea ... even without Ron Dayne. That experience in the middle will ease the way for two new tackles.

6. ILLINOIS

All five starters are back from a unit that held Michigan, Ohio State, Iowa and Northwestern without a sack and made mincemeat out of Virginia in a bowl game. Left tackle Marques Sullivan and guard Ray Redziniak are all-Big Ten performers.

7. VIRGINIA TECH

Sometimes it seems as if QB Michael Vick doesn't really need blockers, but Tech has a bunch of good ones. Four starters are back — notably guard Matt Lehr and tackle Dave Kadela — and there is depth a-plenty.

8. TEXAS

The last time the Longhorns had a veteran line, Ricky Williams won the 1998 Heisman Trophy. This time, Hodges Mitchell is due to follow guard Roger Roessler and three other starters, including 6-6, 367 tackle Leonard Davis, to a big year.

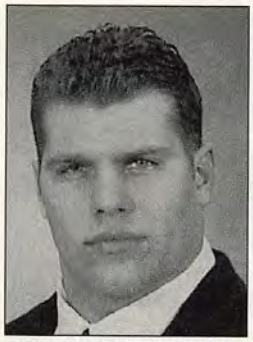
9. ARIZONA

Center Bruce Wiggins, smart and bull strong, anchors a line that returns four starters and could even see an upgrade at the one vacancy — JC transfer Kevin Barry is ready to add his widebody to the mix.

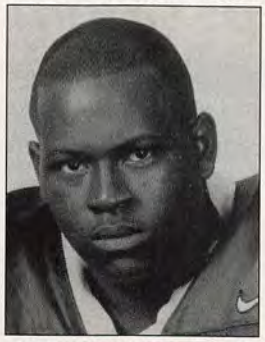
10. GEORGIA

It's the Bulldogs' depth that has them seeing plenty of room for offensive growth. Three starters return — most notably tackle Jonas Jennings, and sophomores Jon Stinchcomb and Kevin Breedlove.

LINDY'S ALL-AMERICANS


STEVE HUTCHINSON, MICHIGAN

BEN HAMILTON, MINNESOTA


KAREEM MCKENZIE, PENN STATE

TARLOS THOMAS, FLORIDA STATE

DOMINIC RAIOLA, NEBRASKA

TOP OFFENSIVE GUARDS

Rk	Name	Yr	Ht	Wt	College
1.	Steve Hutchinson	Sr.	6-5	298	Michigan
2.	Bill Ferrario	Sr.	6-3	302	Wisconsin
3.	Russ Hochstein	Sr.	6-4	290	Nebraska
4.	Paul Zukauskas	Sr.	6-6	282	Boston College
5.	Matt Lehr	Sr.	6-2	285	Virginia Tech
6.	Josh Lawson	Jr.	6-5	295	Virginia
7.	Chad Ward	Sr.	6-5	315	Washington
8.	Josh Lovelady	Sr.	6-3	320	Houston
9.	Toniu Fonoti	So.	6-4	330	Nebraska
10.	Ray Redziniak	Sr.	6-3	290	Illinois
11.	Brent Key	Sr.	6-4	280	Georgia Tech
12.	Shaun Mason	Sr.	6-5	295	Michigan State
13.	Steven Grace	Jr.	6-2	271	Arizona
14.	Antwan Kirk-Hughes	Jr.	6-3	320	Texas
15.	Brian Polak	Sr.	6-4	325	UCLA

TOP OFFENSIVE TACKLES

Rk	Name	Yr	Ht	Wt	College
1.	Kareem McKenzie	Sr.	6-7	321	Penn State
2.	Tarlos Thomas	Sr.	6-5	320	Florida State
3.	Kenyatta Walker	Jr.	6-5	301	Florida
4.	Pork Chop Womack	Sr.	6-3	336	Mississippi St.
5.	Leonard Davis	Sr.	6-6	350	Texas
6.	Terrence Metcalf	Jr.	6-3	300	Mississippi
7.	Brett Williams	So.	6-6	315	Florida State
8.	Marques Sullivan	Sr.	6-5	310	Illinois
9.	Jeff Backus	Sr.	6-6	298	Michigan
10.	Joaquin Gonzalez	Jr.	6-5	272	Miami
11.	Dave Kadela	Sr.	6-6	290	Virginia Tech
12.	Dante Ellington	So.	6-6	335	Alabama
13.	Chris Brown	Sr.	6-6	315	Georgia Tech
14.	Jonas Jennings	Sr.	6-4	302	Georgia
15.	Bernard Robertson	Sr.	6-4	286	Tulane

TOP CENTERS

Rk	Name	Yr	Ht	Wt	College
1.	Dominic Raiola	Jr.	6-2	295	Nebraska
2.	Ben Hamilton	Sr.	6-5	283	Minnesota
3.	Casey Rabach	Sr.	6-5	286	Wisconsin
4.	Bruce Wiggins	Sr.	6-3	280	Arizona
5.	Paul Hogan	Sr.	6-4	275	Alabama
6.	Sherwin Lacewell	Sr.	6-2	290	East Carolina
7.	Seth McKinney	Jr.	6-3	290	Texas A&M
8.	Randall Cummins	Sr.	6-3	285	Kansas State
9.	Chris Lorenti	Sr.	6-5	320	Central Florida
10.	Jeff McCurley	Sr.	6-5	290	Pittsburgh
11.	Josh Melton	So.	6-4	302	Arkansas
12.	Scott Peters	Jr.	6-3	312	Arizona State
13.	Doug Rosfeld	Sr.	6-4	279	Cincinnati
14.	Melvin Fowler	Jr.	6-3	287	Maryland
15.	Rick Gilliam	Sr.	6-6	325	West Virginia

Not rated due to injury: Zac Zedalis (Florida)

overhaul the line, and its inexperience showed.

It took all the way until midseason 1999 for the big boys up front to start clicking. With opponents putting nine or even 10 defenders "in the box" in early-season games, the Huskers generated only 114 yards rushing against California and 119 against Southern Mississippi.

"Even if you're Nebraska, you can't do much about that," Raiola said.

But in time, Nebraska's offense became more diversified in response to opponents' crowding the line, and the linemen became comfortable working with each other.

The rushing numbers grew, even though the schedule pitted the Huskers against some of the toughest teams in the country. They bowled over Texas A&M for 335 rushing yards in a 37-0 victory; rolled over Kansas State for 325 yards in a 41-15 rout; and bludgeoned Colorado for 356 yards in a 33-30 overtime triumph.

"The fact we were able to just run the football and do it when they (opponents) knew we were going to do it was pleasing to everybody in the program and to the fans outside the program," Solich said. "I think the offensive line is going to be very confident it can do those things again this year."

Nothing could have boosted the confidence more than the two long drives against Tennessee, the highlights of a 321-yard rushing performance.

Each drive lasted 10 plays and ended with touchdowns that turned a 17-14 lead into a 31-14 advantage. On the second drive, the 99-yarder, the Huskers never passed.

"We made a statement," Hochstein said. "There was no better time for the Nebraska offensive line to shine."

Plenty of motivation was provided by the Vols themselves. During the week of the game, a number of them said Nebraska's offensive line wasn't as physical as it used to be.

"They fired us up," Raiola said. "No one should ever say Nebraska isn't physical. That should have been a lesson learned for them."

And, perhaps, for anyone the Huskers are playing in 2000.

— Eric Olson

Brown Ready to Just Point and Shoot

Top Defensive Lines

1. WISCONSIN

The Badgers were last seen holding Stanford to a minus-5 yards rushing in the Rose Bowl. We'll call that foreshadowing. Wisconsin allowed just a tick over 300 yards per game last season, and opponents will be hard-pressed to match that . Heck, they'll be hard-pressed just to get past the Badgers' first line of defense.

Junior Wendell Bryant rules the middle, and gets bonus points for being a big-game big-play player. The rest of the gang has seen it all … and usually handled it. Seniors John Favret, Ross Kilodziej and Eric Mahlik have combined for 89 starts.

Yes, there will be more negative numbers in opponents' futures.

2. FLORIDA

The Gators have the go-nuts-from-the-corner pass rusher in Alex Brown and the, beat-you-up-the-middle pair of 300-pounders in Gerard Warren and Derrick Chambers … and two other players with starting experience. All they need is to stay away from injuries, and they'll be the reason, that Florida could win its first SEC title in four seasons.

3. TEXAS

All-American tackle Casey Hampton and Shaun Rogers spent more time in the opposing backfield than any duo in college football last season, accounting for 48 tackles on the other side of the line. It's up to sophomore Cory Redding at one end and a tag team on the other side to take advantage of foes when offenses close ranks inside in trying to keep out the active tackles.

4. FLORIDA STATE

Jamal Reynolds is the latest of the pass-rushing fools that have gone through Tallahassee like a tag team. If Roland Seymour can ever stay healthy, he might be even better, and David Warren is also productive. They need action inside after losing Corey Simon and Jerry Johnson to the NFL, but Bobby Bowden has not been known to recruit stiffs.

5. ALABAMA

The Tide signed what was considered the best defensive line class maybe *ever*, but the talented newbies will just have to wait. Returning starters Kenny King, Kindal Moorehead and Kenny Smith hold down the fort in mighty-fine style.

6. GEORGIA

Give a defense one dominant defensive tackle, and the offense has to adjust its game plan. But with two 6-6, 300-pounders standing side-by-side, and it's a monster headache for opponents. That's Richard Seymour and Marcus Stroud, with a deep group around them. End Charles Grant was as impressive as any freshman in the country before a knee injury in the last game; he'll be back, too.

7. MIAMI

The school that produced defensive tackles Cortez Kennedy, Russell Maryland and Warren Sapp in the past decade now unleashes fifth-year senior Damione Lewis. He has lots of friends to help destroy offenses.

8. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The Trojans are moving to a 4-3 front for a couple of reasons, not the least of which is that they have four linemen who have been dominant at times. The most intimidating is tackle Ennis Davis (who has battled injuries), with five players bringing starting experience to the trenchwars.

9. SYRACUSE

The Orangemen have been known for their offense over the years, but a veteran group up front, led by end Duke Pettijohn (10.5 sacks last year), will change that for the short term.

10. MICHIGAN STATE

The emphasis up front switches from the ends to the tackles, with the results expected to be about the same. Josh Shaw andJace Sayler provide quality interior muscle.

PHOTO BY ERIK PEREL / ALLSPORT

ALEX BROWN

The decision was made last winter to give Alex Brown every opportunity to get to the quarterback in the 2000 season. *Every* opportunity.

Forget the rest of that stuff, Florida coaches told the junior defensive end.

No more dropping in coverage.

No more playing linebacker in certain defenses.

Concentrate on one thing: "Get the quarterback!"

It took all of one scrimmage in the spring to see the results: Brown had two sacks and was ordered off the field. He couldn't be blocked and was disrupting valuable scrimmage time for Florida's young quarterbacks.

The Gators are hoping this will help Brown become more consistent in what he does best. He set a school record last season with 13 sacks, including five against Tennessee in one of the most dominating games for a defensive player of the '90s.

The problem is, there were times last season when Brown did little to determine the outcome of games. By the end of the season, he was "Up-and-Down Brown."

"We needed to simplify things for Alex," said Florida defensive coordinator Jon Hoke.

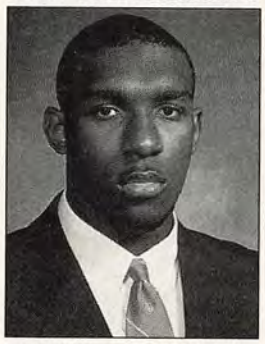
Unstoppable against Tennessee and Georgia, Brown was no factor against Florida State and Alabama.

"I hear what people say," Brown said. "I'll be the first to tell you that I need to be more consistent. But it's more than just rushing the passer. People out there didn't know what defense we were in, and when I was supposed to drop (in zone coverage), and when I wasn't.

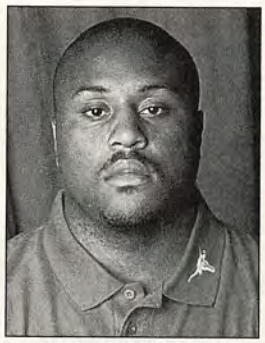
"I want to do whatever I can to help make us champions again. If that means I need to rush every play and not worry about anything else, then that's what I'll do."

Brown has taken steps this offseason toward becoming more of a force off the edge. He added 15 pounds and has lost no speed from his sub 4.6-40 time, and potentially could be the

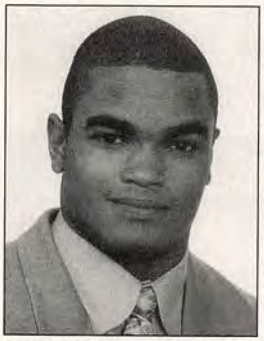
LINDY'S ALL-AMERICAN'S



WENDELL BRYANT, WISCONSIN



CASEY HAMPTON, TEXAS



JAMAL REYNOLDS, FLORIDA STATE

ALEX BROWN, FLORIDA

best end ever to play at Florida.

That's saying a lot, considering the top two rush ends in the NFL last year -- Kevin Carter of the St. Louis Rams and Jevon Kearse of the Tennessee Titans -- are former Gators. With his speed, wingspan and strong upper body, Brown has been compared to Kearse ever since he was being redshirted as a freshman three years ago.

There were times when the comparisons were overbearing.

"Alex is not Jevon Kearse," says Florida defensive ends coach Jim Collins. "There are few players on any level that have that kind of athletic ability. But that doesn't mean Alex can't be just as productive."

In his first two years, Brown actually has been more productive in some areas than Kearse was in three years at Florida. Kearse had 16.5 career sacks, and Brown has 15 going into his third season. Brown is on pace to surpass all of Kearse's career numbers.

Both Kearse and Brown played a hybrid position at Florida, a rush end that dropped in certain zone blitz schemes. Now Brown will strictly rush the passer, concentrating on making game-turning plays.

"We're going to try to get Alex Brown in tip-top shape so he can rush the passer every play," said Florida coach Steve Spurrier. "We're not going to teach him all those zone drops we had him doing last year. What Alex does best is rush the quarterback. We have to take advantage of that."

For years, Spurrier has watched rival Florida State produce sensational pass rushers. Now the Gators have a player and scheme to do it themselves.

The question is, which Brown will show up?

The one who had seven sacks, two forced fumbles, two interceptions and four pass deflections against Tennessee and Georgia?

Or the one who recorded six sacks, forced three fumbles and deflected a grand total of one pass in 10 games?

"I don't necessarily think I play better in the big games," Brown said. "It depends on who you're playing and what they're using to stop you. Some teams will leave a back in, or help out with the tight end.

"Some teams will try to block you with one guy. I feel like if I'm one-on-one out there, there aren't many guys who can stop me."

Especially when he's being told to line up and just point and shoot himself at the quarterback.

— Matt Hayes

TOP DEFENSIVE ENDS

Rk	Name	Yr	Ht	Wt	College
1.	Alex Brown	Jr.	6-4	251	Florida
2.	Jamal Reynolds	Sr.	6-4	254	Florida State
3.	Andre Carter	Sr.	6-4	260	California
4.	Karon Riley	Sr.	6-4	248	Minnesota
5.	Julius Peppers	So.	6-6	270	North Carolina
6.	Aaron Schobel	Sr.	6-4	244	TCU
7.	Justin Smith	Jr.	6-5	265	Missouri
8.	Kyle Vanden Bosch	Sr.	6-4	270	Nebraska
9.	Duke Pettijohn	Sr.	6-2	256	Syracuse
10.	Kindal Moorehead	Jr.	6-3	293	Alabama
11.	Will Overstreet	Jr.	6-4	260	Tennessee
12.	Bryan Ray	Sr.	6-3	250	Wake Forest
13.	Justin Kurpeikis	Sr.	6-4	255	Penn State
14.	Monty Beisel	Sr.	6-3	255	Kansas State
15.	Dennis Johnson	Jr.	6-7	255	Kentucky
16.	Grant Irons	Sr.	6-5	275	Notre Dame
17.	Larry Tripplett	Jr.	6-2	285	Washington
18.	Dwayne Missouri	Sr.	6-5	265	Northwestern
19.	Cedric Scott	Sr.	6-5	255	Southern Miss
20.	William Joseph	So.	6-5	290	Miami
21.	Kenny King	So.	6-4	270	Alabama
22.	Kenyon Coleman	Sr.	6-6	278	UCLA
23.	Randy Garner	Sr.	6-4	272	Arkansas
24.	Joe Tafoya	Sr.	6-4	255	Arizona
25.	Cory Redding	So.	6-5	245	Texas

Not rated due to injury: Roland Seymour (FSU), Charles Grant (Georgia)

TOP DEFENSIVE TACKLES

Rk	Name	Yr	Ht	Wt	College
1.	Wendell Bryant	Jr.	6-4	298	Wisconsin
2.	Casey Hampton	Sr.	6-1	305	Texas
3.	Gerard Warren	Jr.	6-4	300	Florida
4.	Richard Seymour	Sr.	6-6	286	Georgia
5.	Damione Lewis	Sr.	6-3	285	Miami
6.	Shaun Rogers	Sr.	6-4	315	Texas
7.	Ennis Davis	Sr.	6-4	300	Southern California
8.	Mario Monds	Sr.	6-4	335	Cincinnati
9.	Mario Fatafehi	Sr.	6-2	305	Kansas State
10.	Kris Kocurek	Sr.	6-5	290	Texas Tech
11.	Justin Bannan	Jr.	6-3	290	Colorado
12.	Marcus Stroud	Sr.	6-6	300	Georgia
13.	Terry Jolly	Sr.	6-2	290	Clemson
14.	Derrick Chambers	Sr.	6-4	270	Florida
15.	Marcus Bell	Sr.	6-2	305	Memphis
16.	David Pugh	Jr.	6-3	269	Virginia Tech
17.	Josh Shaw	Jr.	6-3	280	Michigan State
18.	Jacob Waasdorp	Sr.	6-2	275	California
19.	John Henderson	Jr.	6-7	290	Tennessee
20.	Dan Klecko	So.	6-1	274	Temple
21.	John Schlecht	Sr.	6-1	294	Minnesota
22.	Eric Mahlik	Sr.	6-3	265	Wisconsin
23.	Ryan Pickett	Jr.	6-3	290	Ohio State
24.	Andy Aracri	Sr.	6-2	280	Miami (Ohio)
25.	Ken Kocher	Jr.	6-4	211	UCLA

Not rated due to injury: Willie Howard (Stanford)

'Too-small' Adams Delivers Big

PHOTO BY R.D. MOORE

KEITH ADAMS

In Keith Adams' house, bedtime was enforced six nights a week. But not on Monday nights during football season.

Adams was just three years old when he began to watch Monday Night Football with his father, Julius Adams, the former defensive end for the New England Patriots.

"I was watching a game one night and I thought Keith was just staying up because I was. I didn't know he was watching the game," Julius Adams said. "I got up and turned the TV off because I was going to bed and Keith started screaming and crying. I turned the TV back on and he stopped crying. He was already into football."

To satisfy her son's unquenchable thirst for football, Pat Adams taped the NFL games each Sunday so Keith could watch them during the course of the week. "It's amazing he was so young and into football," Pat Adams said. "Football was truly his first love in life. Even now when he comes home, he gets out those old tapes."

That insatiable desire has carried Keith Adams to the top of the college game. The Clemson junior led the nation in tackles last season, gobbling up ball carriers at a record rate. His combination of football smarts and swift feet carried him to 186 tackles, including an amazing 27 stops against the Tigers' hated rival, South Carolina, in the regular-season finale.

"It was just a magical year for him," defensive coordinator Reggie Herring said.

Adams carries quite a burden into the 2000 season. He's already broken the Clemson single-season tackles record, the Atlantic Coast Conference mark for tackles for loss (33) and the school record for sacks (16). His single-game records are too numerous to mention.

But what Adams lacks in size (5-11, 220), he more than makes up for in confidence and determination.

"I know I can top last season. I'm very confident in that," Adams said. "There's no pressure on me at all, especially with the coaches and players I have around me. It's not about the Keith Adams show, it's about Clemson. Our goal is to win the national championship. I would have traded any amount of tackles for a national championship."

Adams was the cornerstone of coach Tommy Bowden's first Clemson team. While Bowden came in flaunting his high-powered, fast-break offense, it was the defense that often enabled the Tigers to emerge victorious. They rebounded from a 3-8 mark in 1998 to go 6-6, including a Peach Bowl loss to Mississippi State.

Even with balls constantly flying through the air on offense, it was Adams'

Top Inside Linebackers

Rk	Name	Yr	Ht	Wt	College
1.	Jamie Winborn	Jr	6-0	232	Vanderbilt
2.	Carlos Polk	Sr	6-2	250	Nebraska
3.	Pernell Griffin	Jr	6-3	240	East Carolina
4.	Dan Morgan	Sr	6-3	230	Miami
5.	Eddie Strong	Jr	6-2	248	Mississippi
6.	Zeke Moreno	Sr	6-3	245	Southern California
7.	T.J. Turner	Sr	6-2	255	Michigan State
8.	E. Westmoreland	Sr	6-0	230	Tennessee
9.	Quenton Caver	Sr	6-5	230	Arkansas
10.	Roylin Bradley	Sr	6-1	230	Texas A&M
11.	Sean Hoffman	Sr	6-3	244	Minnesota
12.	Matt Smith	Sr	6-4	247	Oregon
13.	Torrance Marshall	Sr	6-2	245	Oklahoma
14.	Ryan Gonsales	Jr	6-2	240	Pittsburgh
15.	Kamal Shakir	Jr	6-1	238	Memphis
16.	Robert Thomas	Jr	6-2	230	UCLA
17.	Andra Davis	Jr	6-1	250	Florida
18.	Ben Taylor	Jr	6-2	217	Virginia Tech
19.	Kendrell Bell	Sr	6-2	240	Georgia
20.	Eric Brackins	Jr	6-2	233	Michigan
21.	Treverance Faulk	So	6-3	225	LSU
22.	Orlando Huff	Sr	6-3	230	Fresno State
23.	Bradley Jennings	Jr	6-3	230	Florida State
24.	De'Andre Lewis	Jr	6-1	238	Texas
25.	Clifton Smith	So	6-2	250	Syracuse

Not rated due to injury: Marvin Constant (Alabama)

Outside Linebackers

Rk	Name	Yr	Ht	Wt	College
1.	Keith Adams	Jr.	5-11	220	Clemson
2.	Jashon Sykes	Jr.	6-3	230	Colorado
3.	Saleem Rasheed	So.	6-3	220	Alabama
4.	Rocky Calmus	Jr.	6-2	225	Oklahoma
5.	Byron Thweatt	Sr.	6-2	233	Virginia
6.	Jason Glenn	Sr.	6-1	235	Texas A&M
7.	Markus Steele	Sr.	6-3	220	Southern California
8.	Brian Allen	Sr.	6-2	225	Florida State
9.	Adam Archuleta	Sr.	6-0	213	Arizona State
10.	Akin Ayodele	Sr.	6-3	250	Purdue
11.	Ben Leber	Jr.	6-3	250	Kansas State
12.	John Favret	Sr.	6-4	230	Wisconsin
13.	Boss Bailey	Jr.	6-3	220	Georgia
14.	Riall Johnson	Sr.	6-3	240	Stanford
15.	Morlon Greenwood	Sr.	6-0	234	Syracuse
16.	Aaron Thompson	Jr.	6-1	233	Maryland
17.	Ben Mezera	Sr.	6-4	242	Minnesota
18.	Patrick Chukwurah	Sr.	6-2	238	Wyoming
19.	Jason Loerzel	Jr.	6-3	221	Purdue
20.	Ryan Nece	Jr.	6-2	224	UCLA
21.	Jarvis Green	Jr.	6-3	259	LSU
22.	Jeremiah Pharms	Sr.	6-2	250	Washington
23.	Rick Crowell	Sr.	6-3	245	Colorado State
24.	Marlon McCree	Sr.	6-1	193	Kentucky
25.	Justin Ena	So.	6-4	260	BYU

Not rated due to injury: Brandon Spooon (North Carolina), Tommy Polley (Florida State)

play on defense that vaulted the Tigers back to respectability. Not bad for a guy who was neglected by a number of schools because he was considered too small to play linebacker. He came out of Atlanta's Westlake High at 196 pounds, barely big enough to play strong safety. But Adams had played — and flourished — at linebacker all of his life.

As a sophomore last season, Adams played at 210 pounds. He's up to around 220 entering this season, his body marked by the ripples of muscle that begin at his tree-trunk of a neck and cover his shoulders and arms.

Regardless of his accomplishments, he knows the questions about his height and weight will keep coming.

"I'm really tired of hearing that," Adams said. "You can't question a person just based on his size. You can't judge what's in his heart.

"I know what I can do. I don't worry about people underestimating me because if they do that, they're crazy. How can you underestimate the person who led the nation in tackles?"

Adams takes heart in the emergence of several undersized linebackers in the NFL such as Dallas' Dexter Coakley, Tampa Bay's Derrick Brooks and Miami's Zach Thomas. Sam Mills, formerly of Carolina and New Orleans, was a wrecking ball at just 5-9.

Although he's clocked at a moderately fast 4.5 seconds in the 40-yard dash, Adams' speed on the field is considered his greatest asset. Teams simply couldn't catch him to block him.

"I don't have outrageous speed, but I know when I'm on the field, I can catch anybody," Adams said. "I've got what's like game speed. I can run a lot faster when I'm chasing somebody."

One day last spring, Adams passed through Clemson's athletic offices and saw a magazine with baseball's Frank Thomas on the cover. Next to him were the words: "Don't question my desire."

That seemed to hit home for Adams. His desire is measured in tackles. And with Adams, that's the only measurement that counts.

— Michael Smith

LINDY'S ALL-AMERICANS

KEITH ADAMS, CLEMSON

JASHON SYKES, COLORADO

JAMIE WINBORN, VANDERBILT

TOP LINEBACKER CORPS

1. TEXAS A&M

Aggies coach R.C. Slocum loves linebackers. He builds his defenses around them, which some say means he builds his whole team around them. And these linebackers are worth building a team around.

For starters, Jason Glenn, Roylin Bradley, Cornelius Anthony and Brian Gamble return as starters, giving the Aggies more experience at linebacker than is probably fair. Last season, they amassed 46 tackles behind the line of scrimmage, 15 of them when opposing quarterbacks had a notion to throw the ball. Glenn and Anthony each forced three fumbles last season, indicating that they don't politely ask ballcarriers to take a knee.

But the depth is where it really gets out of hand: backups like Christian Rodriguez, Harold Robertson, Jared Morris and Damien West would start at most schools.

2. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The Trojans have two of the purest of linebackers: Zeke Moreno, who tracks people down and clobbers them in the middle, and the imposing Markus Steele on the weakside. Steele is imposing enough, in fact, to get to wear the No. 55, which NFL standouts Junior Seau, Willie McGinest and Chris Claiborne wore -- and he fills it out well, rating as the most feared defensive player in the Pac-10. What's more, players like Darryl Knight and Kori Dickerson are terrific athletes, too.

3. MICHIGAN STATE

What makes new head coach Bobby Williams happier than a new five-year contract? A linebacking crew so good that multi-talented T.J. Duckett can stay at running back. The Spartans have all the T.J. they need on defense — T.J. Turner, who is moving to the outside this season in more of a pass-rushing role, a la Julian Peterson.

4. FLORIDA STATE

Back are Tommy Polley, Brian Allen and Bradley Jennings, the three leading tacklers who were credited with 302 total tackles on the national championship team. Polley sustained a knee injury in the Sugar Bowl, but expects to be back in the lineup in September.

5. GEORGIA

There's a Will for the Boss to ring the Bell in Sanford Stadium this season. Sorry, you didn't deserve that. But Will Witherspoon, Boss Bailey and Kendrell Bell are solid, and Adrian Hollingshed (the 1998 starter in the middle) is back after an injury cost him 1999.

6. ALABAMA

Sophomore Saleem Rasheed, the Tide's leading tackler as a freshman (84), has the goods to be an All-American, like, right now. Alabama needs middle 'backer Marvin Constant to bounce back from a late-season knee injury.

7. MICHIGAN

This is where the Wolverines' depth comes into play. Stalwarts Ian Gold and Dhani Jones are out ... but guys like Victor Hobson, Eric Foote and Eric Brackins ensure that the beat goes on ... and on ... and on ...

8. VIRGINIA

It's a deep and talented group, paced by steady senior Byron Thweatt. Teammates Donny Green and Angelo Crowell have big potential ... and big questions. Green is returning from a year of academic probation; Crowell is a raw, though spectacular, sophomore.

9. MARYLAND

A trio of starters, all juniors, averaged 31.2 tackles a game last season. Aaron Thompson has fun on the outside (17 tackles for loss) while Marlon Moore and Kevin Bishop clean up the middle.

10. LSU

Gerry DiNardo wasn't allowed to stick around to see the spoils of his 1999 recruiting class, which included in-state LBs Treverance Faulk and Bradie James. Their play last season was a teaser to big, big things.

Smoot and Prather: Top Dogs in the Pound

PIG PRATHER

It isn't as though Fred Smoot and Pig Prather are the only defensive players back at Mississippi State. It just seems that way.

Smoot and Prather, perhaps the best corner-safety duo in the country, are the recognizable names from the nation's No. 1 defense. Recognizable to opposing offensive players and coaches, anyway.

And when guys named Smoot and Pig (actually, Edward) are the high-profile names, obviously this is a defense that gets its reputation on the way they play rather than their household names.

The Bulldogs have 13 other players who split time with the eight departed senior starters who helped Joe Lee Dunn's "Dog Pound" wreak havoc on the SEC last year, when they allowed a measly 222.5 yards per game.

But make no mistake, Smoot, a senior cornerback, and Prather, a junior safety, will headline a unit that expects to resume its seat at the top this season.

"That's our No. 1 goal," said Smoot,

FRED SMOOT

TOP SECONDARIES

1. WISCONSIN

Let's start with the best defensive player in college football, and put with him another corner who can really cover, and mix in a safety who does his thing as a sure tackler.

It's quite a concoction, one that fits the formula for an ideal secondary, and why it was the fifth-ranked pass defense in the country last season, intercepting 18 passes while allowing foes to complete barely 50 percent of theirs for just eight touchdowns.

Cornerback Jamar Fletcher, the *Lindy's*/SportsLine.com preseason defensive player of the year, has returned five interceptions for TDs.

Safety Jason Doering is nails, and junior cornerback Mike Echols has 4.3 quickness. The remaining starter — the strong safety — figures to be Devery Hughes or former tailback Eddie Faulkner.

2. KANSAS STATE

Don't bother passing against these guys … it's a losing proposition. Last year, the Wildcats gave up five passing touchdowns, and scored five touchdowns among their 21 interceptions. No wonder they posted by far the best passing-efficiency defense since the NCAA started keeping the stat 1990.

Now three starters are back, All-America strong safety Jarrod Cooper and starting cornerbacks Jerametrius Butler and Dyshod Carter. .

3. MIAMI

There wasn't a tougher secondary late in the '99 season. Get this: Entering this season, the 'Canes haven't allowed a touchdown pass in 27 quarters — and they faced Michael Vick and Joe Hamilton in that span. Everybody is back, notably free safety Al Blades.

4. OREGON STATE

Dennis Weathersby is the Pac-10's most feared cornerback … and he's only a sophomore. He's good, and he'll have the same cast around him as last season, when OSU ranked ninth in the country in passing efficiency defense.

5. MARSHALL

It's harder to evaluate players from a smaller conference, but Marshall players have turned out to be the real deal recently, so why not cornerbacks Maurice Hines and Danny Derricott? With this pair (nine INTs in 1999), there is no weak side to throw to.

6. FLORIDA

After giving up more than their usual complement of big plays, the Gators now have the experience to go with their speed. Their top five defensive backs return from last season, when their 13 INTs topped their 12 TDs allowed.

7. FLORIDA STATE

As usual, the Seminoles used a lot of players in the secondary last season, which makes the loss of two "regular" starters less damaging. In fact, the four players who started against Florida and in the Sugar Bowl are all back after FSU's 22-interception season.

8. MISSISSIPPI STATE

The Bulldogs lost several key players from last year's terrific secondary, yet, cornerback Fred Smoot and safety Pig Prather make for a fine nucleus to build from.

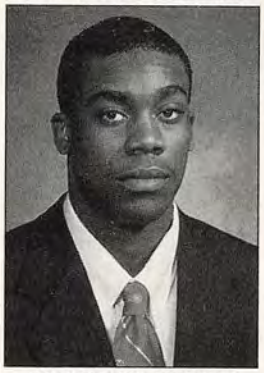
9. TEXAS

You gotta love a player named Quentin Jammer at cornerback, and that's exactly what the 'Horns have. Jammer, the team's best DB in '98, lost almost all of '99 to a shoulder injury, but is back strong to help a unit that returns nearly intact and was 12th nationally against the pass last season.

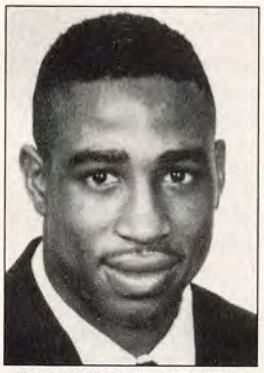
10. CLEMSON

The unit must overcome the loss of two starters, but with Robert Carswell and Alex Ardley around, the fall-off won't be severe. They combined for 11 interceptions last season, and both players are fierce hitters.

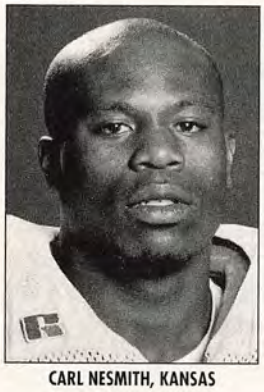
LINDY'S ALL-AMERICANS



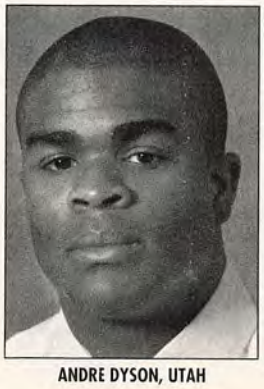
JAMAR FLETCHER, WISCONSIN



FRED SMOOT, MISSISSIPPI STATE



CARL NESMITH, KANSAS



ANDRE DYSON, UTAH

the nation's No. 1-rated junior college defensive back before moving to Starkville. "With the top defense and our offense having another year of experience, folks won't want to mess with the Bulldogs."

It's no coincidence that when Bulldog equipment manager Phil Silva was handing out jerseys last fall, No. 2 was waiting in Smoot's locker.

After all, that jersey number is a right of passage for college cornerbacks with the skills and bravado to wear the same digit on their chest and back that Deion Sanders and Charles Woodson wore during their undergrad days.

Smoot has both the skills and the bravado ... and he backed it up. He intercepted six passes and was named all-league, helping to put the clamps on every passing attack in the SEC.

And in Dunn's defense, the corners are truly alone in coverage.

"That's the reason I came here," said Smoot, a 6-1, 180-pounder from Provine High in Jackson, Miss. "I came to play for Coach Dunn and the best defense in the country."

And as far as the jersey number?

"If you're for real what other number would you want?" Smoot said. "I'm for real."

Prather is, too. A star tailback at tiny Faulkner (Miss.) High, Prather spent his freshman season as a backup to J.J. Johnson.

State coach Jackie Sherrill, though, didn't like seeing one of his team's best athletes jockeying for position in a crowded backfield when he could start at free safety.

Two of his interceptions sealed wins in the Bulldogs' 10-2, Peach Bowl championship season. He was also one of the SEC's best return men, averaging more than 29 yards on kickoff returns.

"Last year I was learning from all those other guys," Prather said. "I was freelancing a lot of the time before. Now that I know my stuff and have been through the wars, it's time to turn it up another level."

That could be tougher without Bean, safety Ashley Cooper (another NFL pick) and senior four-year starting safety Tim Nelson.

"Honestly, we have more players coming back than we lost," Smoot said. "I don't want to disrespect any of my teammates from last year, but I'm not sure we're not even more talented this time around."

Dunn made similar statements at the end of the 1999 season. That's the way he planned it, rotating his first and second string everywhere but the corners all last season.

— Sekou Smith

TOP SAFETIES

Rk	Name	Yr	Ht	Wt	College
1.	Carl Nesmith	Sr.	6-3	215	Kansas
2.	Robert Carswell	Sr.	6-0	215	Clemson
3.	Jarrod Cooper	Sr.	6-1	205	Kansas State
4.	Derrick Gibson	Sr.	6-2	207	Florida State
5.	Al Blades	Sr.	6-2	200	Miami
6.	Dee Miller	Sr.	6-1	195	Hawaii
7.	Pig Prather	Jr.	6-3	192	Mississippi St.
8.	Leo Barnes	Sr.	6-0	182	Southern Miss
9.	Anthony Limbrick	Sr.	6-1	205	Fresno State
10.	Jason Doering	Sr.	6-0	200	Wisconsin
11.	Hakim Akbar	Jr.	6-1	195	Washington
12.	Marquand Manuel	Jr.	6-0	203	Florida
13.	Ramon Walker	So.	6-0	190	Pittsburgh
14.	DeWayne Patmon	Sr.	6-0	190	Michigan
15.	Julian Jones	Sr.	5-11	188	Missouri
16.	Billy-Dee Greenwood	Jr.	6-2	185	North Carolina
17.	Chris Hope	Jr.	6-2	195	Florida State
18.	Idrees Bashir	Jr.	6-3	202	Memphis
19.	Quentin Harris	Jr.	6-0	206	Syracuse
20.	Cory Bird	Sr.	5-10	215	Virginia Tech
21.	Curtis Fuller	Sr.	5-10	191	TCU
22.	Reggie Myles	Jr.	5-11	185	Alabama
23.	Michael Jameson	Sr.	5-11	185	Texas A&M
24.	Anthony Wajda	Jr.	6-1	189	Kentucky
25.	Ed Reed	Jr.	6-0	190	Miami

Not rated due to injury: Bobby Jackson (Illinois)

TOP CORNERBACKS

Rk	Name	Yr	Ht	Wt	College
1.	Jamar Fletcher	Jr.	5-10	170	Wisconsin
2.	Fred Smoot	Sr.	6-1	173	Mississippi St.
3.	Andre Dyson	Sr.	5-10	174	Utah
4.	Maurice Hines	Sr.	5-7	186	Marshall
5.	Andre Lott	Sr.	5-11	185	Tennessee
6.	Jimmy Williams	Sr.	5-10	193	Vanderbilt
7.	Dennis Weathersby	So.	6-1	203	Oregon State
8.	Dempsey Dees	Sr.	5-10	174	Boise State
9.	Willie Middlebrooks	Jr.	6-2	190	Minnesota
10.	Danny Derricott	Sr.	5-8	159	Marshall
11.	Antuan Simmons	Jr.	5-10	190	Southern Cal
12.	Renaldo Hill	Sr.	5-11	175	Michigan State
13.	Larry Casher	Sr.	5-11	168	Auburn
14.	Nate Clements	Sr.	6-0	190	Ohio State
15.	Eric Kelly	Sr.	5-11	198	Kentucky
16.	Antonio Roundtree	Jr.	5-7	185	Louisville
17.	Kevin Thomas	Jr.	5-11	180	UNLV
18.	Mike Rumph	Jr.	6-2	195	Miami
19.	Keyuo Craver	Jr.	5-10	190	Nebraska
20.	Mike Echols	Jr.	5-10	169	Wisconsin
21.	Dyshod Carter	Sr.	5-10	180	Kansas State
22.	Clevan Thomas	Sr.	6-0	175	Florida State
23.	Brock Williams	Sr.	5-10	190	Notre Dame
24.	Milo Lewis	Sr.	6-0	188	Alabama
25.	Errol Hood	Jr.	5-11	195	North Carolina

Not rated due to injury: Quentin Jammer (Texas), Rashad Bauman (Oregon)

Special Teams are Huskers' Ace In the Hole

For a team to win the national championship -- witness Florida State in 1999 and Tennessee in 1998 -- they'd better have a kicking game to brag about. Nebraska certainly does in 2000, which is a key reason why *Lindy's* Football Annuals has given the Huskers the nod to emerge from the Orange Bowl on Jan. 3 with the national championship.

It's a rich special teams history in Lincoln, where they were downright amazing in '99 ... and virtually all of the key players return.

Dan Hadenfeldt set a school record by averaging 45 yards a punt, with only eight of 63 going into the end zone.

Combine his efforts with the coverage team and the punt return team, and you'll notice that the punt teams gave Nebraska an edge of about seven yards on every exchange of punts. He's a difference-maker, and difference-makers win national titles.

Then take into account that the Huskers blocked a preposterous 10 kicks last season (seven punts, three field goals), with Kyle Vanden Bosch (3) the leader.

And returns? Bobby Newcombe (18-yard average) and Joe Walker each have taken punts back for touchdowns. In 1998, Walker returned a punt, a kick and an interception for scores.

If Josh Brown's stats of 14 for 20 on field goals look to be only adequate, consider that he was a freshman, and made eight of his last nine.

LINDY'S ALL-AMERICANS

JAMIE RHEEM, KANSAS STATE

DAN HADENFELDT, NEBRASKA

DAVID ALLEN, KANSAS STATE

Top Special Teams

1. NEBRASKA

For good measure, snapper John Garrison is back ... and since he's not expected to mess up this season, this might be the last you hear of him.

2. WISCONSIN

The Badgers score with Vitaly Pisetsky (16 of 20 FGs, including 14 in a row in one stretch), they pin opponents back with Kevin Stemke (43-yard career punting average), and they take it up the field on returns (Nick Davis has scored with both a kickoff and punt).

3. KANSAS STATE

We acknowledge David Allen as the nation's best "all-purpose" player. We acknowledge Jamie Rheem as the best kicker. Coach Bill Snyder acknowledged the punting needed work, and signed freshman Jared Brite.

4. FLORIDA

Jeff Chandler made 21 of 24 field goals last year, and Bo Carroll was forcing people to kick away from him after returning a KO for a TD and showing his hand as one of the best punt returners in the country. Alan Rhine is a solid punter, averaging 40 yards with only three touchbacks.

5. TENNESSEE

Punter David Leaverton not only has a good leg, but offers the coverage team good hang time and even has a knack for the coffin corner. The world-class speed of Leonard Scott (27-yard average) makes him one of the most feared kick returners in the country.

6. MISSISSIPPI

Les Binkley is accurate (16 for 22 FGs, 39 for 39 PATs), and good in the pressure cooker, as he showed with his last-second game-winning FG in the bowl game against Oklahoma. Deuce McAllister is a sensational kickoff returner (26-yard average), and also will return punts.

7. MINNESOTA

He gets to kick in the cozy climate-controlled confines of the Metrodome so it only stands to figure that Minnesota kicker Dan Nystrom will improve upon his freshman outing which saw him connect on 17 of 21 field goals, including four for six from 40 yards out, with a long of 51.

8. VANDERBILT

Jimmy Williams averaged 22.1 yards on kick returns last year, and broke a punt return for a touchdown. Vandy also has a solid double-threat leg in John Markham (40.8 yards per punt; 12 of 16 FGs).

9. UCLA

Return men such as Lovell Houston and Freddie Mitchell -- and any number of other excellent skill position people UCLA wants to put out there -- make this unit special.

10. MICHIGAN

Hayden Epstein has one of those legs that coaches would like to bronze and keep around forever: He's hit a 56-yard field goal, averages 40 yards on punts, and routinely boots the ball into the end zone on kickoffs.

Top Punters

Rk	Name	Yr	Ht	Wt	College
1.	Dan Hadenfeldt	Sr.	5-11	195	Nebraska
2.	Nick Harris	Sr.	6-3	220	California
3.	Ray Cheetany	Sr.	5-11	180	UNLV
4.	David Leaverton	Sr.	6-4	210	Tennessee
5.	Craig Jarrett	Jr.	6-2	206	Michigan St.
6.	Kevin Stemke	Sr.	6-2	187	Wisconsin
8.	Dave Zastudil	Jr.	6-4	230	Ohio
7.	Keith Cottrell	Sr.	6-4	205	Florida State
9.	Damon Duval	So.	6-0	175	Auburn
10.	Casey Roussel	Sr.	6-1	223	Tulane

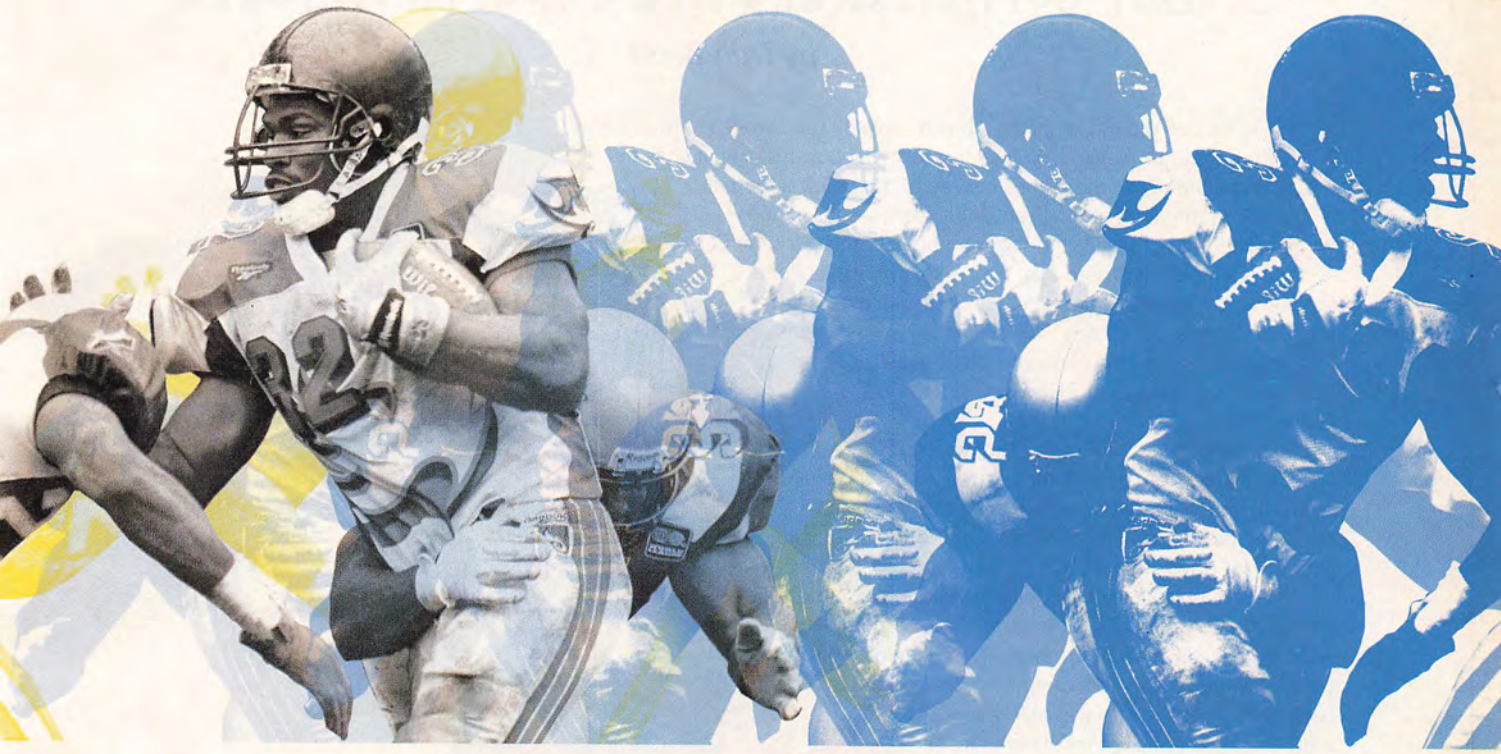
Top Returners

Rk	Name	Yr	Ht	Wt	College
1.	David Allen	Sr	5-9	195	Kansas State
2.	Bobby Newcombe	Sr	6-0	195	Nebraska
3.	Santana Moss	Sr	5-10	175	Miami
4.	Steve Smith	Sr	5-8	177	Utah
5.	Freddie Milons	Jr	5-11	183	Alabama
6.	Nick Davis	Jr	5-10	180	Wisconsin
7.	Bo Carroll	Sr	5-9	165	Florida
8.	Dallas Davis	Sr	5-10	175	Colorado State
9.	Kahlil Hill	Jr	6-3	185	Iowa
10.	Leonard Scott	So	5-11	170	Tennessee

Top Kickers

Rk	Name	Yr	Ht	Wt	College
1.	Jamie Rheem	Sr	6-1	190	Kansas St.
2.	Vitaly Pisetsky	Sr	5-10	228	Wisconsin
3.	Dan Nystrom	So	5-11	195	Minnesota
4.	Ryan White	Jr	5-9	182	Memphis
5.	Jeff Chandler	Sr	6-2	206	Florida
6.	Kris Stockton	Sr	5-9	195	Texas
7.	Hayden Epstein	Jr	6-2	200	Michigan
8.	Mike Biselli	Sr	5-10	180	Stanford
9.	Les Binkley	Sr	5-9	170	Mississippi
10.	Scott Westerfield	Sr	5-10	181	Miss. State

sportingbet.com
GLOBAL SPORTSBOOK



ONLINE 24/7 OR CALL 1-877-620-9013

FULLY REGULATED

TAX FREE BRITISH SPORTSBOOK

www.sportingbet.com

Sportingbet.com (UK) PLC is a public traded company on OFEX.

Seminoles are ...

KING OF THE HILL

... But Cornhuskers are expert climbers

by Don Borst

OK, let's all recognize that the bowls are here for a while (contracts now are through 2006) ... so let's just forget about this playoff stuff and concentrate on the games instead of the political football.

College football is, after all, all about games — as in, kids' games like King of the Hill and Tag, and our favorite, Kick the Can.

The reality is that, more than ever, like it or not, college football's postseason is more about bowls than ever, with the glut reaching 25 games.

And, more than ever, only one bowl really, truly matters. This season, THE bowl is the Orange Bowl.

Win the Orange Bowl, and "Tag, you're it."

It's Miami's turn to host the big 1 vs. 2 Bowl Championship Series title game, and there's every reason to think that defending national champion Florida State will find its way downstate.

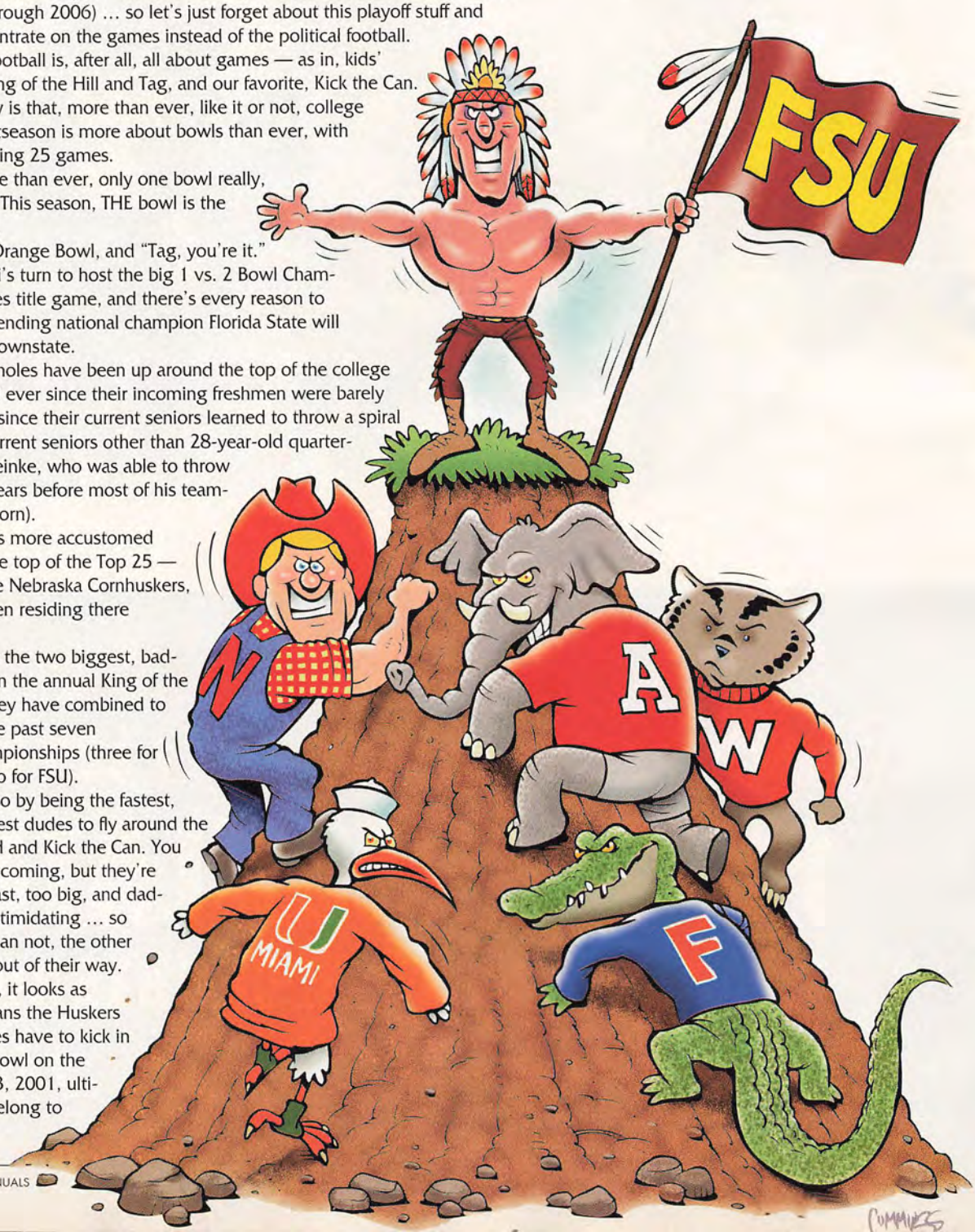
The Seminoles have been up around the top of the college football world ever since their incoming freshmen were barely walking, and since their current seniors learned to throw a spiral (well, their current seniors other than 28-year-old quarterback Chris Weinke, who was able to throw a spiral five years before most of his teammates were born).

Nobody is more accustomed to being at the top of the Top 25 — other than the Nebraska Cornhuskers, who have been residing there for decades.

These are the two biggest, baddest players in the annual King of the Hill battle. They have combined to win five of the past seven national championships (three for Nebraska, two for FSU).

They do so by being the fastest, biggest, boldest dudes to fly around the neighborhood and Kick the Can. You know they're coming, but they're still just too fast, too big, and dadgum it, too intimidating ... so more often than not, the other kids just get out of their way.

This time, it looks as though the cans the Huskers and Seminoles have to kick in the Orange Bowl on the night of Jan. 3, 2001, ultimately will belong to one another.



Breaking Down the Big Bowls

It's the Orange Bowl's turn to host the national championship game in the Bowl Championship Series rotation, followed by the Rose Bowl next season.

That means the folks in Miami are amid a wild, intense year of preparation, but at least they have a one-year respite from worrying about getting a good matchup and selling tickets.

Remember, the champions of the SEC, Big Ten, Big 12, ACC, Pac-10 and Big East are guaranteed spots in the four biggest bowls, with the other two spots filled by the teams most attractive to the bowls.

Orange Bowl

Miami, Fla.
January 3, 2001, 8 p.m. ET
The matchup:
National championship game

Likely contestants: Pick two — Nebraska, Florida State, Wisconsin, Alabama and Miami ... those are our choices to win their respective leagues and potentially finish No. 1 or No. 2, with the top two in the BCS combo-rankings (a combination of computers and voters) squaring off for the title.

Rose Bowl

Pasadena, Calif.
January 1, 2001, 5 p.m. ET
The matchup:
Pac-10 champion vs. Big Ten champion**

Likely contestants: Washington or USC vs. Wisconsin or Michigan. Fortunate to get a Cinderella team almost every year, the Rose could see the Big Ten champion reach the Orange Bowl ... would interest rise or fall with an "outsider?"

Fiesta Bowl

Tempe, Ariz.
January 1, 2001, 8 p.m. ET
The matchup:
Big 12 champion vs. at-large*

Likely contestants: Nebraska or Kansas State vs. Michigan or SEC runner-up. The Fiesta could be stuck with two long-range teams if Nebraska gets to the Orange Bowl this season and K-State doesn't go 10-1.

Sugar Bowl

New Orleans, La.
January 2, 2001, 8 p.m. ET
The matchup:
SEC champion vs. at-large*

Likely contestants: Alabama or Florida vs. Miami, Florida State, Texas or Kansas State. It's three long years until New Orleans gets the championship game again, but relatively close proximity to SEC, ACC and Big Ten helps.

**Note: If in Orange Bowl, replaced by at-large team.*

Nobody's Perfect

While Nebraska and Florida State are the most-likely participants in the Orange Bowl, there are always upsets that crop up along the way. Here's a glance at the "other" best candidates to get to Miami ... and the best reason they won't make it.

Wisconsin	Most talented team of all, but that schedule says "No. 1? Are you nuts?"
Alabama	No longer upstarts, will be targeted throughout SEC season.
Florida	Don't count 'em out entirely, but the intimidation factor is gone.
Miami	Depth isn't quite there; will lose to FSU for 6th time in a row.
Texas	On the rise, but premature to expect a trip to Orange Bowl.
Georgia	If only they could get Florida and Tennessee off the schedule.
Michigan	Rebuilding defense and a new QB make unfortunate combo.
Kansas St.	Soft schedule leaves no room for error.

Mission Implausible ... Not Impossible

These are not the teams that will wind up on your list of teams most likely to win the national championship. Still, they have some talent, and the kind of schedule to get attention, and when it's all done, one of them could have the chance that Virginia Tech had last season.

BYU	Has rare chance to make impact, facing Fla. St, Virginia, Miss. St.
Clemson	Closer than you might think: Biggie at FSU could pave the way.
USC	Can gain credit by beating Penn State; sweeping Pac-10.
Va. Tech	Don't dismiss Frank Beamer and Michael Vick so easily.
Texas A&M	Can bump off K-State and Texas ... then, who knows?
Notre Dame	Least-likely Irish team to win it in 40 years, but it's still ND.
TCU	Likeliest of all to go 12-0, and if everyone else falters ....

Year of the Savvy and Slippery QB

Defensive coordinators around the country generally look for two things to pounce on: Inexperienced quarterbacks, and immobile quarterbacks.

Well, it could be a long year for the defensive coordinators.

It seems as though everybody has a returning starter at quarterback this season — an amazing 81 percent of the power programs (51 of the 63 programs in the six BCS conferences and Notre Dame). And the way mobile quarterbacks have become the rage, very few teams are relying on "pure throwers" these days.

Guys like Michael Vick, Quincy Carter, Eric Crouch, Marques Tuiasosopo — and another three dozen quarterbacks with similar attributes — are just as likely to win with their feet as with their arm. And they have been there and know what it's going to be like on Saturdays.

And it's like that all over the place. Here's a glance at the top quarterback in each major conference, and how many teams have starters returning at quarterback:

Big 12	9	Eric Crouch, Nebraska
SEC	10	Quincy Carter, Georgia
Pac-10	9	Marques Tuiasosopo, Washington
Big Ten	8	Drew Brees, Purdue
ACC	6	Chris Weinke, Florida State
Big East	8	Michael Vick, Virginia Tech

Filling the Biggest Cleats

Time to step up. Be the man. Get large.

When a superstar moves on, it's up to the understudy — or merely the next guy in line — to keep the team from noticing a dramatic drop-off at the position. That might be impossible in most cases (the departed guy was

COMPUTER
COLLEGE
FOOTBALL
IBM • PC

THE MOST REALISTIC STRATEGY/SIMULATION COMPUTER GAMES ON THE MARKET TODAY!

Didn't like the way last season went? Would you like to take on Virginia Tech and Florida State? Or, how about '92 Alabama against '62 Alabama or '72 USC or even '24 Notre Dame with the "Four Horsemen". Well...with 3 in 1 Football you can do just that and much, much more!

With 3 in 1 Football you can play any of OVER 800 total teams. Both College & Pro. Virtually every one of the I-A and I-AA teams from 1999 are included as well as the Pro teams from last year. The WFL, WLAF and USFL teams are also available. Many, many of the greatest College and Pro teams of all time are there, too. '63 Navy, '67 USC, '71 Oklahoma, '45 Army and the list goes on and on.

3 in 1 plays head to head, you vs. computer or computer vs. computer. It has an end of game scoring summary, full team and individual player stat breakdowns. Stats compiler, Standings and League Leaders, you can draft, trade or input your own players and teams from scratch.

As you coach your favorite team to victory you'll be amazed at how realistic your QB's, running backs, receivers and kickers perform!

An extensive auto-scheduler is also included. The entire 1999 college or Pro schedules can be played by hitting a few keystrokes. And if over 800 college and Pro teams still isn't enough, there are many past seasons available.

ADDITIONAL COLLEGE SEASONS DISKS
1956-1998
Pick any 5 seasons for $39.95

ORDER TODAY!
Mail check or money order for **$39.95** each.
You may call in and order with VISA or Master Card.
Please add $4.00 for shipping and handling.
For more information, call or write for a free brochure.
1-800-477-7032
Visit our Web Site at www.lhgames.com

©LANCE HAFFNER GAMES
P.O. BOX 100594 • NASHVILLE, TN 37224

a superstar, after all), but that's the task of the players who step into the largest vacated shoes in college football in 2000.

Last year, Hodges Mitchell stepped in for Ricky Williams at Texas and gained more than 1,000 yards. And Markus Steele jumped into Chris Claiborne's linebacker spot at Southern Cal, and quickly wowed 'em. And Dusty Bonner had 'em asking "Tim who?" at Kentucky ... all right, we're going a little far.

Here's a look at the biggest vacant shoes and how the team plan to fill them.

Shaun Alexander, rb, Alabama
Shaun Bohanon steps up as main man in tag-team approach.

Courtney Brown, de, Penn State
Justin Kurpeikis started on other side, now must be playmaker.

Ron Dayne, rb, Wisconsin
Smaller, quicker **Michael Bennett** is primed for this chance.

Joe Hamilton, qb, Georgia Tech
Just run the offense, **George Godsey**, don't try to be a hero.

Tee Martin, qb, Tennessee
Joey Mathews gets first shot, but faces lots of competition.

Corey Moore, de, Virginia Tech
RS-frosh **Nathaniel Adibi** was big-time recruit last year.

Chad Pennington, qb, Marshall
Byron Leftwich has all the skills, can keep Herd rolling.

Peter Warrick, wr, Florida State
Sensational JC talent **Javon Walker** joined program in spring.

Tim Rattay, qb, Louisiana Tech
Brian Stallworth takes over controls of big-time offense.

Chris Weinke, qb, Florida State
Weinke: We still can't believe he returned to chase another title.

Most Important Players

Call them Most Important, Most Valuable, Most Indispensable, "Most Bestest" ... you get the idea. Take this guy out of the lineup, and the team just isn't as fearsome.

About three dozen quarterbacks
Yes, we could easily put 10 quarterbacks here, so we'll avoid that.

LaDainian Tomlinson, rb, TCU
The main man as the Frogs make a run at a big, big season.

Dominic Raiola, c, Nebraska
Keys outstanding line, providing critical leadership and skills.

Wendell Bryant, dt, Wisconsin
As great as CB Jamar Fletcher is, Badgers' defense starts up front.

Jamie Winborn, lb, Vanderbilt
Active field general for Commodores' improving defense.

David Terrell, wr, Michigan
Not just a Woodson copycat (db-kr), he's a big (6-3) big-play guy.

Deuce McAllister, rb-kr, Mississippi
The most versatile player in the country, gives Rebs a different gear.

Alex Brown, de, Florida
The key to the Gators turning it up a notch to Orange contention.

Dan Morgan, lb, Miami
With Nate Webster tossing college career, Morgan has added load.

Freddie Milons, wr-kr, Alabama
Does many things — all of them good — for defending SEC champs.

TOP AWARDS CANDIDATES

HEISMAN TROPHY
Outstanding Player
Downtown Athletic Club of New York
1. Michael Vick, qb, Virginia Tech
2. Drew Brees, qb, Purdue
3. Quincy Carter, qb, Georgia
4. Chris Weinke, qb, Florida State
5. Deuce McAllister, rb, Mississippi
6. Eric Crouch, qb, Nebraska
7. LaMont Jordan, rb, Maryland
8. Jamar Fletcher, cb, Wisconsin
9. Antwaan Randle-El, qb, Indiana
10. LaDainian Tomlinson, rb, TCU

1999 winner: Ron Dayne, rb, Wisconsin

NAGURSKI AWARD
Outstanding Defensive Player
Charlotte TD Club/FWAA
1. Jamar Fletcher, cb, Wisconsin
2. Casey Hampton, dt, Texas
3. Alex Brown, de, Florida
4. Wendell Bryant, dt, Wisconsin
5. Keith Adams, lb, Clemson
6. Carlos Polk, lb, Nebraska
7. Jamie Winborn, lb, Vanderbilt
8. Jashon Sykes, lb, Colorado
9. Jamal Reynolds, de, Florida State
10. Andre Carter, de, California

1999 winner: Corey Moore, de, Virginia Tech

OUTLAND TROPHY
Interior Lineman
Football Writers Association of America
1. Steve Hutchinson, og, Michigan
2. Wendell Bryant, dt, Wisconsin
3. Dominic Raiola, c, Nebraska
4. Terrence Metcalf, ot, Ole Miss
5. Casey Hampton, dt, Texas

1999 winner: Chris Samuels, ot, Alabama

BILETNIKOFF AWARD
Wide receiver
Quarterback Club of Tallahassee
1. David Terrell, Michigan
2. Santana Moss, Miami
3. Ronney Daniels, Auburn
4. Andre Davis, Virginia Tech
5. Freddie Milons, Alabama

1999 winner: Troy Walters, Stanford

LOMBARDI AWARD
Lineman/Linebacker
Rotary Club of Houston
1. Alex Brown, de, Florida
2. Keith Adams, lb, Clemson
3. Wendell Bryant, dt, Wisconsin
4. Casey Hampton, dt, Texas
5. Steve Hutchinson, ot, Michigan

1999 winner: Corey Moore, de, Virginia Tech

BUTKUS AWARD
Linebacker
Athletic Club of Orlando
1. Keith Adams, Clemson
2. Jashon Sykes, Colorado
3. Carlos Polk, Nebraska
4. Jamie Winborn, Vanderbilt
5. Dan Morgan, Miami

1999 winner: LaVar Arrington, Penn State

DAVEY O'BRIEN AWARD
Quarterback
Charitable Trust of Fort Worth
1. Drew Brees, Purdue
2. Michael Vick, Virginia Tech
3. Chris Weinke, Florida State
4. Eric Crouch, Nebraska
5. Quincy Carter, Georgia

1999 winner: Joe Hamilton, Georgia Tech

JIM THORPE AWARD
Defensive back
Athletic Club of Oklahoma City
1. Jamar Fletcher, Wisconsin
2. Fred Smoot, Mississippi State
3. Robert Carswell, Clemson
4. Andre Dyson, Utah
5. Andre Lott, Tennessee

1999 winner: Tyrone Carter, Minnesota

DOAK WALKER AWARD
Running back
GTE/SMU Athletic Forum, Dallas
1. Deuce McAllister, Mississippi
2. LaDainian Tomlinson, TCU
3. Anthony Thomas, Michigan
4. LaMont Jordan, Maryland
5. Hodges Mitchell, Texas

1999 winner: Ron Dayne, Wisconsin

LOU GROZA AWARD
Placekicker
Palm Beach County Sports Authority
1. Jamie Rheem, Kansas State
2. Vitaly Pisetsky, Wisconsin
3. Dan Nystrom, Minnesota
4. Jeff Chandler, Florida
5. Kris Stockton, Texas

1999 winner: Sebastian Janikowski, FSU

CALL
AL MOSS SPORTS SERVICE
FOR WINNING FOOTBALL SELECTIONS

Honest
Competent
Knowledgeable

We've beat the game all 8 years we've been open!
(and that's the truth)

Our Rates
$65 Weekly
$500 For the Season

First week of the season free to new callers
(other discount packages are available)

You must win (53%), or your subscription fee will be refunded entirely!

Call
AL MOSS
(800) 711-8800
After 9 a.m.
(Pacific Time)
For more information

Equal-Opportunity Bowls

With the glut of bowls, the smaller-time teams stand to gain the most. When bowls get down to looking for Nos. 47-50 this season — and, as many as 54 next year — they aren't going to be poking around the Big Ten and the SEC, since major programs with winning records are already filling the spots. Last year, Texas Tech (at 6-5) was the only bowl-eligible team from the six power conferences that didn't get invited to a bowl, and that was largely because coach Spike Dykes had resigned.

The new "final" bowl spots figure to go to the MAC runner-up, the fourth-place team in the Mountain West or WAC or Conference USA. The measurement is no longer how successful a team becomes by going to bowl games ... but how unsuccessful it might be by the ghastly action of missing out even once along the way. Of the 115 Div. I-A teams:

CURRENT STREAKS

(46 teams; 40 percent of Div. I-A programs): They went to a bowl last season, and many of them go almost annually. From Nebraska's 31-year bowl streak to Oregon State, which broke a 34-year postseason drought, here's how many years in a row teams have been to bowls:

Alabama (2)
Arizona State (1)
Arkansas (2)
Boise State (1)
Boston College (1)
Brigham Young (2)
Clemson (1)
Colorado (2)
Colorado State (1)
East Carolina (1)
Florida (9)
Florida State (18)
Fresno State (1)
Georgia (3)
Georgia Tech (3)
Hawaii (1)
Illinois (1)
Kansas State (7)
Kentucky (2)
Louisville (2)
Marshall (3)
Miami, Fla. (2)
Michigan (25)
Michigan State (1)
Minnesota (1)
Mississippi (3)
Mississippi State (2)
Nebraska (31)
Oklahoma (1)
Oregon (3)
Oregon State (1)
Penn State (11)
Purdue (3)
Southern Miss (3)
Stanford (1)
Syracuse (5)
TCU (2)
Tennessee (11)
Texas (2)
Texas A&M (3)
Utah (1)
Virginia (2)
Virginia Tech (7)
Wake Forest (1)
Washington (5)
Wisconsin (4)

ONE-YEAR ABSENCE (14):

With the 14 here, 52 percent of the programs have gone bowling within the past two years:

Air Force
Arizona
Idaho
Missouri
North Carolina
N.C. State
Notre Dame
Ohio State
San Diego State
USC
Texas Tech
Tulane
UCLA
West Virginia

GROWING DROUGHTS (9):

Add these teams that haven't been since 1995 or '96, and it still means 69 percent of programs in the past five years have been bowling. Somehow, only Toledo looks like it will be able to rejoin the ranks of the bowl-happy this season:

Army
Ball State
California
Houston
Navy
Nevada
Northwestern
Kansas
Toledo

IN THE '90s (12):

And 12 others went in the '90s (making it 78 percent of all teams have been to a bowl in the past decade). Maryland looks like it will go again in 2000, while UNLV seems to have the best chance of the others — even better than Indiana:

Baylor
Bowling Green
Central Michigan
Duke
Indiana
Louisiana Tech
Maryland
San Jose State
South Carolina
Tulsa
UNLV
Wyoming

TWO-YEAR HIATUS (8):

These went in 1997 (making it 60 percent in the past three years):

Auburn
Cincinnati
Iowa
LSU
New Mexico
Oklahoma State
Pittsburgh
Utah State
Washington State

BOWLS FOR 2000 SEASON

DEC. 20	
Mobile Alabama Bowl	Mobile, 7:30 p.m.
DEC. 21	
EA Sports Las Vegas Bowl	Las Vegas, 5 p.m.
DEC. 24	
Jeep Oahu Bowl	Honolulu, 8:30 p.m.
DEC. 25	
Jeep Aloha Bowl	Honolulu, 3:30 p.m.
DEC. 27	
Motor City Bowl	Pontiac, Mich., 2 p.m.
Galleryfurniture.com Bowl	Houston, 6 or 8 p.m.
DEC. 28	
Crucial.com Humanitarian Bowl	Boise, Idaho, 1 p.m.
Insight.com Bowl	Phoenix, 6 p.m.
Micron/PC Bowl	Miami, 7:30 p.m.
DEC. 29	
HomePoint.com Music City Bowl	Nashville, Tenn., 1 p.m.
Wells Fargo Sun Bowl	El Paso, Texas, 2:15 p.m.
AXA/Equitable Liberty Bowl	Memphis, Tenn., 5 p.m.
Culligan Holiday Bowl	San Diego, 8 p.m.
DEC. 30	
Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl	Atlanta, 5 p.m.
Sylvania Alamo Bowl	San Antonio, 7:30 p.m.
DEC. 31	
Silicon Valley Classic	San Jose, Cal., 6:30 p.m.
Sanford Independence Bowl	Shreveport, La., 8:30 p.m.
JAN. 1	
Outback Bowl	Tampa, Fla., 11 a.m.
Southwestern Bell Cotton Bowl	Dallas, Tx.,11 a.m.
Toyota Gator Bowl	Jacksonville, Fla., 12:30 p.m.
Ourhouse.com Fla. Citrus Bowl	Orlando, Fla., 1 p.m.

(ALL TIMES ET, TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE; MICRON PC ALSO HAS RESERVED DEC. 30)

BETWEEN 10-20 YEARS (8):

For eight, it has been a long while, but their parents can recall the good old days. It has been more than 10, but less than 20 years; Vanderbilt, Western Michigan and SMU would seem to have honest-to-goodness hope to jump in:

Eastern Michigan
Miami, Ohio
Northern Illinois
SMU
Temple
UTEP
Vanderbilt
Western Michigan

MORE THAN 20 YEARS AGO (8):

These programs can't remember what bowls are like ... they're always busy Christmas shopping, anyway. Still, teams like Rice and Memphis have renewed hope with the rapid bowl expansion:

Iowa State
Rutgers
Kent
Memphis
Ohio U.
Rice
New Mexico State
North Texas

NEVER (9):

These guys have only seen them on TV, but watch for Central Florida or Arkansas State in the Big West to break in as soon as this season:

Akron
Arkansas State
Buffalo
Central Florida
Connecticut
La-Lafayette
La-Monroe
Middle Tennessee
UAB

Tweaking the Bowl System

As long as college football's powers that be — which these days are the commissioners of the six power conferences that run the BCS — continue to entrust their wallets and souls to "the bowl experience," they need to face up to their responsibility.

That means they have the obligation of making sure the bowl system works at least reasonably well.

In recent years, they have made some good moves. And they have made some terrible moves and non-moves, resulting in too many half-filled stadiums, lousy TV ratings, and the unchecked proliferation of bowls into markets and climates that simply don't fit in any logical way.

That's how 25 bowls can exist this season with two more on the way for the 2001 season. There is some tweaking to be done, guys:

1. Open Up The Bidding

Who decides who gets to play where? Well, the conference lock-ups is a nice concept, but it is crumbling around itself since teams and bowls are getting sick of each other. The "free-market" system is preferred by all except the conference commissioners, who are intent on guaranteeing their leagues as many bowls as they can get.

But take the free-market system one step further: Force the bowls to actually bid for their picks (like the BCS bowls did to get the right to be one of the big four). Highest bid gets the first two choices of non-BCS teams, next-highest bid gets the next two choices, and so on … down to the lowest-paying bowl getting just what it deserves: The 49th and 50th best teams available.

The fear of getting a couple of lousy teams (or no teams at all) would enhance bowl income, create a terrific "selection day" event, and eliminate bowls that can't or won't cut it.

And remember, bowls won't pick teams that aren't attractive to them or vice versa. But if you want to start a bowl, you'll have to bid for a three-year deal to get a reasonable matchup, or you know you've failed before you start.

2. Don't Allow Non-Winning Teams ... Ever

The 12 regular-season games, starting in 2002, can be a huge plus for the bowls, since teams will have to be 7-5 at worst (rather than the current 6-5).

The bowl folks are bound to return to the days in which 6-6 teams are eligible (now the rule is that a team must have a winning record). That's a critical step: Don't do it.

If a team can't win more than it loses, it has absolutely no business playing in the postseason, whether it's bowls or playoffs.

And once a few bowls are left out when there aren't enough eligible teams to go around, they'll get the picture.

3. Increase The Payouts

The mere fact that teams are seriously challenged to make a go of a bowl game on a reasonable budget — and not lose money — indicates that the minimum payout of $1.5 million per bowl (combined for two teams) is not nearly enough.

Make it a minimum of $2.5 million and watch the smaller bowls figure out ways to make their games worthwhile … or let someone else give it a try.

4. Lose The Million-Dollar Field Goals

It's time the money is sorted out before the season starts. Just throw it into a pot, mix it up a bit, dole out expense money to participants and divvy up the rest — 90 percent of the money goes to the major conferences, and the other 10 percent parceled out to the non-majors.

Let the teams play for the excitement of going to a bowl and the bonus of the extra practices. The athletic department budget should be extracted from the win-lose equation.

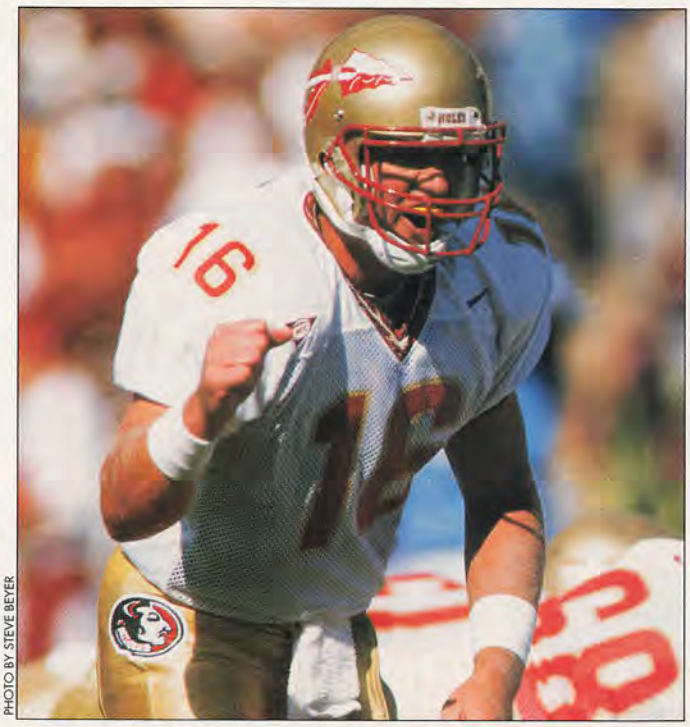


PHOTO BY STEVE BEYER

CHRIS WEINKE AND FLORIDA STATE HAVE WON 12 GAMES IN A ROW.

Streaks, Good and Bad

Maybe Marshall and South Carolina should trade places. Because there doesn't seem to be anybody that can beat Marshall in the MAC, and nobody that South Carolina can beat in the SEC.

Non-league games are where those streaks are most likely to end, with Lou Holtz's Gamecocks getting a chance right off the bat to play New Mexico State and soon after one of Marshall's MAC patsies: Eastern Michigan. If they don't win one of those games to end their 21-game losing streak (eighth longest in major-college history), look out -- Northwestern's all-time wrong-way record of 34 would be in serious jeopardy.

Marshall, meantime, has won 17 in a row, but plays in September at Michigan State and at North Carolina … two good, but not unbeatable teams. Get past them, and it's clear sailing toward 30 and into the winning streaks top 10.

Winning Streaks		Losing Streaks	
Marshall	17	South Carolina	21
Florida State	12	Ball State	17
Wisconsin	8	Buffalo	15
Nebraska	6	Iowa	8
Oregon	6	Baylor	6
Boise St	6	Iowa State	5
TCU	5	North Texas	5
Michigan	5	San Jose State	5
Miami	4	Tulane	5
Southern Miss	4	UNLV	5

BETonSP

FOOTBALL ACTION YOU CAN BET ON!

NASA INTERNATIONAL

BET ON LINE
OR OVER THE PHONE
with your NASA acconut number even play blackjack or craps in our virtual casino

- NASA International is the largest legal and licensed Sportsbook in the world. NASA International is licensed as a sportsbook in the United Kingdom and Costa Rica.
- NASA International offers a wide selection of events to wager on, ranging anywhere from football, basketball, and baseball, to NASCAR, Oscars, trial verdicts, even stock market quotes and much more.
- It is easy to start playing: call our toll free number to sign-up, your account will be activated within 15 minutes.
- With a single PIN number access all of our Online services, wager over the phone and even play blackjack or craps in our virtual casino.
- NASA International has a proven record of ten years of stability and financial security.
- All customer information and transactions are strictly confidential.
- Customers get paid upon request 7 days a week within 48 hours.

OSGA
www.osga.com

INSIDER'S FOOTBALL BETTING GUIDE
www.insidersfbg.com

CARIBBEAN SPORTS BOOK COUNCIL, INC. CSBC
www.csbcsports.com

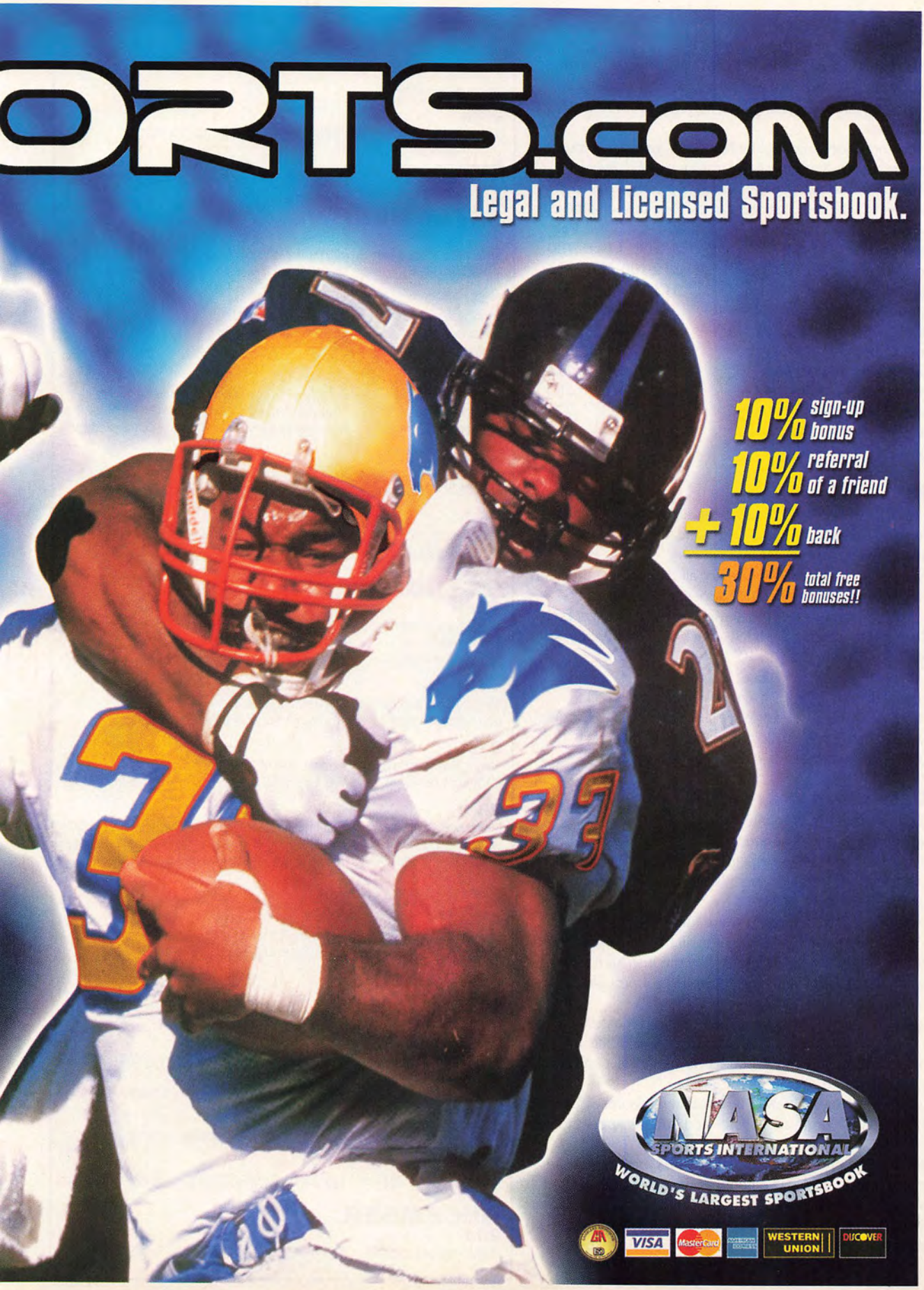
ante up GAMBLING LINKS
www.gambling-links.com

The PRESCRIPTION
www.theprescription.com

www.betonsports.com **1-888-996-BETS (2387)**

ALTERNATE WEBSITE: WWW.BETONSPORTS.CO.CR

LOCAL NUMBER: 011-506-283-8313 VOID WHERE PROHIBITED BY LAW


ORTS.com
Legal and Licensed Sportsbook.
10% sign-up bonus
10% referral of a friend
+ 10% back
30% total free bonuses!!
NASA
SPORTS INTERNATIONAL
WORLD'S LARGEST SPORTSBOOK
VISA
MasterCard
WESTERN UNION
DISCOVER

Chasing the Bear

Rebuilding year or not, Penn State icon Joe Paterno figures to become No. 1 this season. In his 35th season as head coach at Penn State, Paterno is third on the all-time major-college list for coaching victories, needing just two to tie Pop Warner, and six to reach Bear Bryant.

Don't look now, JoePa, but Bobby Bowden is gaining on you. Last season, the Florida State coach became just the fifth ever to reach 300 victories, and did it in 389 games - faster than anybody except for Paterno, who took just 380 games. Here's the all-time list:

No.	Name	W-L-T	Pct.
1.	Bear Bryant (1945-82)	323-85-17	.780
2.	Pop Warner (1895-1938)	319-106-32	.733
3.	**Joe Paterno (1966-)**	**317-83-3**	**.790**
4.	Amos Alonzo Stagg (1890-1946)	314-199-35	.605
5.	**Bobby Bowden (1959-62, 70-)**	**304-85-4**	**.779**
6.	Tom Osborne (1973-97)	255-49-3	.836
7.	**LaVell Edwards (1972-)**	**251-95-3**	**.723**
8.	Woody Hayes (1946-78)	238-72-10	.759
9.	Bo Schembechler (1963-89)	234-65-8	.775
10.	Hayden Fry (1962-98)	232-171-10	.564

Current coaches in boldface.

Kicking Off Early

They're on their last legs, having been eliminated by the NCAA after 2002 season, when all teams are allowed to play a 12th regular-season game.

This year's preseason specials are not all that special. Sure, USC vs. Penn State is a nice, traditional matchup, but neither team looks like a world-beater this season, and the Georgia Tech-Virginia Tech game would have been a heck of a lot more fun last year, when both were in the Top 10.

Date	Matchup	Game
Aug. 26	Florida State vs. BYU	Pigskin Classic (Jacksonville, Fla.)
Aug. 26	Iowa vs. Kansas State	Eddie Robinson Classic (Kansas City, Mo.)
Aug. 27	USC vs. Penn State	Kickoff Classic (E. Rutherford, N.J.)
Aug. 27	Ga Tech at Va Tech	BCA Classic (Blacksburg, Va.)

Can Davie turn it around?

The simple answer is, "probably not."

The schedule is tougher than ever at Notre Dame, the talent isn't at the elite level, the admissions department is less forgiving than at most top-tier programs, and the never-die belief system doesn't seem to be in full force in South Bend these days.

So, coach Bob Davie figures to wade through a thick season in which half of the questions he's asked will be about his job status, and the other half will be about why the Irish aren't better than they are. Yet, as difficult as the schedule is, it provides opportunities:

Texas A&M, Purdue, Michigan State, Stanford, Boston College and Southern Cal rate as six of their seven most difficult games this season ... and only Purdue is as loaded as it has been in recent years.

Sure, beating Nebraska would be a momentous upset for the Irish, but Navy, West Virginia, Air Force and Rutgers appear to be nearly sure wins.

Although those previously mentioned solid programs make the schedule difficult, it is a slate no more daunting than most of those teams play in their conferences. Win three or four of those swing games, and the Irish would be ranked and in a bowl game.

Whether that constitutes turning it around would be open to question, but it would be a step.■

The Ones To Watch

AUGUST

26th

BYU at Florida State	Hardly an easy opener for national champs.

27th

Penn State vs. USC	First of many prove-it opportunities for Pac-10.

SEPTEMBER

2nd

Texas A&M at Notre Dame	Bob Davie badly needs a win like this one.
Alabama at UCLA	Tide steps out to West Coast for intersectional tilt.

9th

Miami at Washington	'Canes defense vs. UW QB Marques Tuiasosopo.
Nebraska at Notre Dame	Yes, two storied programs, but this is a mismatch.
Oregon at Wisconsin	Badgers face their one tough non-league opponent.

16th

Florida at Tennessee	Annually the biggest game of the year in the SEC.
Michigan at UCLA	These teams could do a Jan. 1 rematch in Pasadena.
Washington at Colorado	Neuheisel back in Boulder. Armed escort is expected.

23rd

Notre Dame at Michigan St.	Big win over ND last year got Spartans' train rolling.
Penn State at Ohio State	Early Big Ten monster tilt ... loser relegated to rear.

30th

Tennessee at Louisiana St.	Saban's first big one; Vols haven't lost at LSU since '74.
Wisconsin at Michigan	Looks like the game of the year in the Big Ten.

OCTOBER

7th

Florida State at Miami	Starting to look like the early '90s all over again.
Michigan at Purdue	Last in a brutal four-game stretch for Michigan.
Tennessee at Georgia	Will Bulldogs stand up, or sit back down and shut up?

14th

Washington at Arizona State	Sun Devils derailed Huskies' Rose Bowl plans in '99.
Mississippi at Alabama	This has the feel of SEC West deciding factor.

21st

Purdue at Wisconsin	Purdue's elite QB against Wisconsin's elite defense.
Alabama at Tennessee	Vols have won 5 straight, but now Tide has more talent.

28th

Nebraska at Oklahoma	First meeting since 1997 ... OU hasn't won since '90.
Georgia vs. Florida	Annual showdown in Jacksonville could be for East title.
Kansas State at Texas A&M	The No. 2 pick in each division square off.

NOVEMBER

4th

Clemson at Florida State	Tigers are ACC's best hope to stop Seminoles.
Virginia Tech at Miami	This looks like Big East championship game.

11th

Nebraska at Kansas State	To the winner: Division? Conference? Orange Bowl bid?
Ohio State at Illinois	Tough road date for Bucks with Michigan visiting next.

18th

Michigan at Ohio State	Always a big one, but will OSU be more than spoilers?
Florida at Florida State	Seminoles could be on a 22-game winning streak.
Auburn at Alabama	Looks like another Iron Bowl with major ramifications.

24th

Texas A&M at Texas	Hook 'em or gig 'em? Shootout for South title.

25th

Mississippi St. at Ole Miss	Egg Bowl is always wild, and this will be no exception.

DECEMBER

2nd

League championship games	SEC and Big 12 determine automatic BCS teams.

Keeping the Faith

By Bill Sorrell

The Game Winner — Gatto Boots Adversity

God Teaches Kicker Trust and Patience

At Universal Studies in Orlando, Nick Gatto grabbed some ketchup packages and hopped on "Jaws." During the simulated-shark ride, he smeared ketchup on his right arm. When he got off, he told children waiting in line, "Kids, you don't want to ride this ride, it will take your arm. If you see my arm out there, please pick it up for me."

"I had kids freaking out," said Gatto, who was born without a fully-developed right arm. The arm is a stub which extends two inches below his elbow.

Gatto, 22, gets a kick out of pranks about his arm. "I can have guys rolling on the floor," he said.

Arkansas State University gets a kick out of Gatto, a senior from Spring, Tex.

The Indians' placekicker, Gatto hit eight of 12 field goals last season and 30 of 31 extra points.

That Gatto could kick for a Division I university is a testament to his will and to his faith.

"I've been told, 'Nick, you'll never accomplish anything in life.' I have used that as a driving force to get me where I am now," said Gatto.

Gatto got to Arkansas State after playing two years at Blinn (Tex.) Junior College. He was second team All-America his sophomore season.

Gatto went to Blinn after he was passed over by Division I schools when he was an all-state prep senior.

"Every kid's dream is to play for a big-time university," said Gatto, who began to pray with his girlfriend, Melissa Verhey, a Blinn student, about where he would transfer.

"She was my biggest help," said Gatto. "She told me that God was teaching me to trust and to have patience."

When Arkansas State assistant coach Don Yanowsky, who coaches special teams, learned that "the best kicker in the league is the kid from Blinn," Yanowsky was asked by recruiter Mike Tomlin, "Does it bother us that he's got one arm?"

Yanowsky said, "All we care about is how he kicks. Then, the more we found out about Nick, the more we wanted to recruit him. He has the intangibles, character, leadership, personality. I want my two sons to turn out like him. I can't say anything stronger about a person than that."

Despite a speech impediment, Gatto tutors teammates in oral communications and English. He is involved in the Lunch Buddy program in Jonesboro elementary schools. The program, where players eat lunch once a week and help children with homework, was organized by assistant coach Larry Porter and Carole Hollis, wife of Arkansas State head coach Joe Hollis.

Gatto, who was Fellowship of Christian Athletes president at Blinn, is trying to organize an FCA chapter at Arkansas State. He has worked summer camps for the youth evangelical organization, Young Life. He gives his testimony at churches.

The greatest joy he has had in life, he said, was being born the way he is. "I am overwhelmed. I am happy with the way God made me," said Gatto, who became a Christian when he was 17. "I had a girl ask me, 'Nick, do you hate God for how He's created you?' I was like 'I have never really thought about it. Let me get back to you on that.' Every day I say, 'God, thank you for the way you created me.' "

Gatto hasn't always been thankful. As a child, he would come home crying because of cruel comments. "I was picked on to the fullest extreme. I was called names. It really, really hurt," he said.

His parents, Sal and Tina Gatto, were sources of comfort. They told him he had been made for a reason. "When God's ready, He's going to show you why you're made the way you are," his parents would say.

"They have always pushed me," said Gatto. "They said to never let anything get in the way of what you want to accomplish."

Gatto, who is on full scholarship, is one of the strongest and fastest players on the team. He bench pressed 325 pounds this past spring. He squats 405 pounds, has a vertical leap of 32 inches and runs the 40-yard dash in 4.49 seconds.

"It's amazing the abilities he has with one arm. How many one-armed people can bench over 300 pounds?" said Joe O'Bar, an offensive lineman for the Indians.

Gatto (5-11, 186) balances the bar with his stub and uses his left hand to complete the bench press. He has played baseball (pitcher and first baseman), basketball, soccer, tennis, golf. He has run track. He can snow ski, water ski and tackle.

Teammate Jack Wright, a center/deep snapper, said, "You learn a lot of humility from Nick and what he has overcome. He could have been depressed about having one arm. He chose not to be."

Hollis said, "He's not always perfect but you can always count on his best."

Gatto has gotten it done on the field through his mental approach said Yanowsky. "A kicker is a hero or a zero. There is never any middle ground. You're only as good as your last kick. You determine your success by how you handle the ups and downs. He keeps an even keel," said Yanowsky.

Joked Wright, "We'll be friends with him as long as he doesn't miss a field goal."

Gatto credits God for his talent. "God has given me a talent. God has been with me in everything I do; in school, in football, in relationships. He has always taken me to the next level."

Gatto's flagship verse is Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

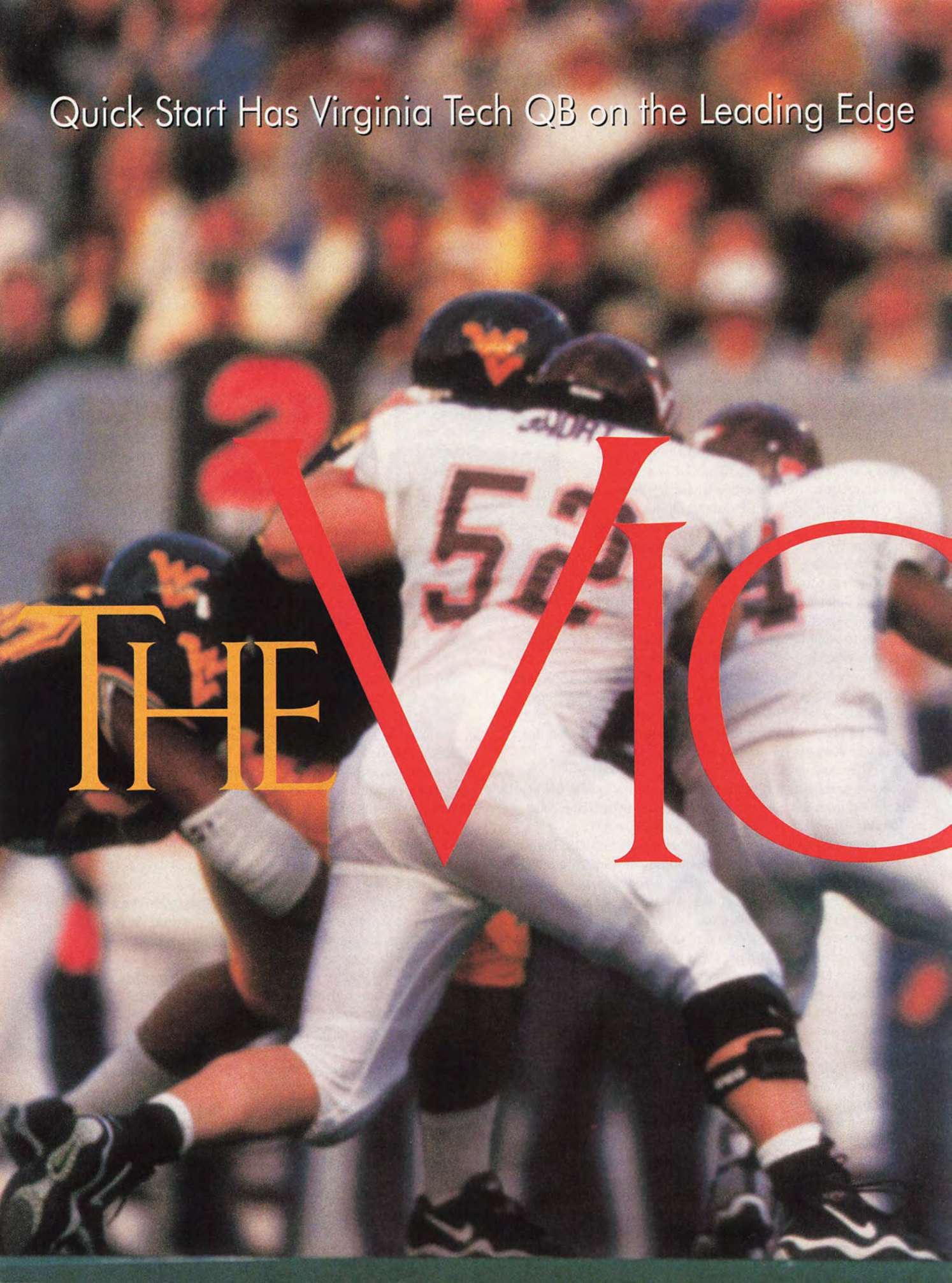
Gatto would like a future in the NFL. A more immediate goal is making the All-Big West Conference team this fall. A political science major with a 3.0 grade point average, Gatto has kicked around the idea of going into politics or coaching at a Texas high school.

Last fall, an Arkansas man brought his grandson to watch practice and to meet Gatto. The boy smiled when he saw Gatto. O'Bar was watching. "You could see his eyes light up. He could see what a one-armed person could do. Nick brightened up his life," said O'Bar.

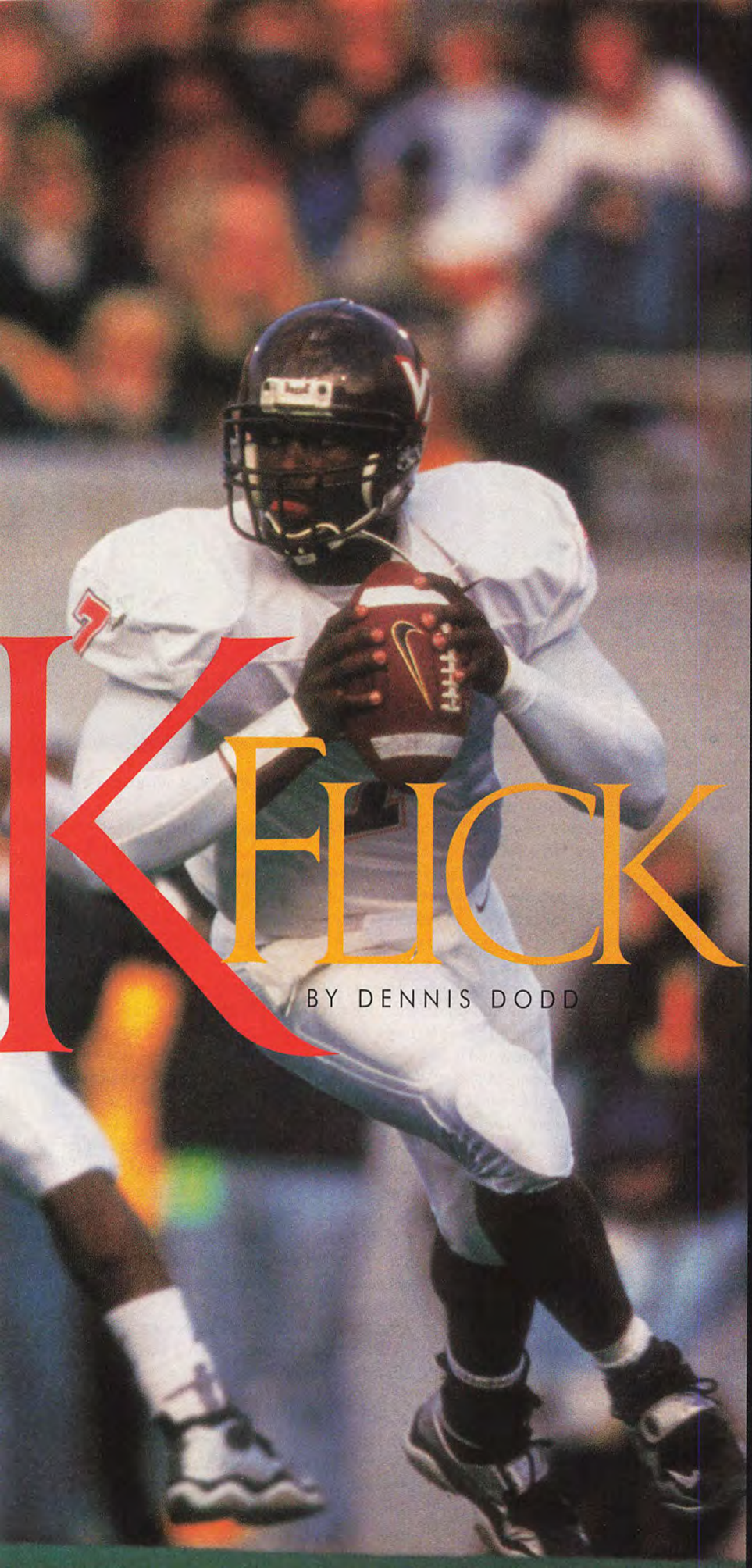
The boy had one arm. ■

Bill Sorrell is a minister and freelance writer in Memphis.

Quick Start Has Virginia Tech QB on the Leading Edge



THE VIC



VICK

BY DENNIS DODD

We've seen the future of college football and it is Michael Vick.

The guy is redefining the ideal quarterback: Mobile, strong arm, quick release, good size.

Plenty of players have a good understanding of the game. Lots of quarterbacks are mobile. Lots of guys have strong arms. Lots of passers have quick releases. Lots of them have good size.

But Vick doesn't have just one or two or three of those attributes. He's all of those things … and more.

"Heck, I don't think there are two of him out there," said Virginia Tech offensive coordinator Ricky Bustle. "It's amazing how many high school coaches call me and say, 'Hey, I got a quarterback just like Michael Vick.' I look at that film and it ain't nowhere close. They don't know what Michael Vick is about."

Admit it, the story of the Sugar Bowl was not so much Florida State — the Seminoles were expected to win. It was about Michael Vick, and the way he worked 'em over.

Hokies fall behind 28-7. Behind Vick's scrambling and throwing, they rally to take a 29-28 lead. Vick doesn't win, Florida State's depth does, 46-29. Florida State won the 1999 national championship and Michael Vick became the frontrunner for the 2000 Heisman.

It became apparent quickly that the Hokies had one chance, and it was wrapped in a 6-1, 212-pound package.

Despite being sacked seven times for minus-48 yards, Vick still rushed for 97 yards. Despite being hounded by the Seminoles defense, he still threw for 225 yards, leading Tech to a 503-yard night.

"He's real," a breathless Florida State safety Sean Key said that night after chasing Vick around. "It's like trying to keep a two-year old baby in a crib. That guy is awesome. He's got my vote all the way. He isn't going to be there three more years. He's got the Heisman next year. I don't know who else can beat him."

DOUG PENSINGER

No college quarterback has risen so fast, so soon.

It's a story that goes beyond football. His cult of personality seems to be Vick's destiny.

"He has one of the neatest personalities I've ever seen," Bustle said. "He's got a nice smile, he kind of lights up people around him. Michael Jordan is one of the finest role models in the world, but Michael's got a personality that lights people up, too."

Not flashy, even engaging ... just special, that makes people turn and notice.

But that's getting ahead of the story. Michael Dwayne Vick still has to be a sophomore in 2000 before reading his first script.

If you have been caught in Vick's vapors, like Key said, no one else is even close. But don't believe the hype, believe the honest-to-goodness anecdotal evidence.

"Every day somebody's giving me something to autograph," Bustle said. "It's been kind of crazy. I found myself on a plane the other day with a 12-year old from Rhode Island ... he shows me his school notebook and he's got all these athletes on it, including Michael Vick."

Remember, this is a freshman from Virginia Tech!

Running backs coach Billy Hite heard the buzz while recruiting right after the Sugar Bowl.

"Everywhere I went in the airport, I could hear conversations about Michael Vick," Hite said. "It was the damnedest thing I've ever seen. It was really unbelievable. It was amazing ... the ticket agents were talking about it.

"They weren't waiting on me. They didn't know me. They didn't see me."

At the ESPYs in February, megastars like Mark McGwire and Tiger Woods were seeking out the quarterback from Blacksburg.

"I can't believe," Vick said, "they knew who I was."

Even the venerable Frank Beamer has been caught up in the amazement.

"Boy did he make some great, just unbelievable plays?" Beamer said that night after the Sugar Bowl. "I've never seen a quarterback like that. People have him dead to rights and can't get him. Have y'all ever seen anybody like that?"

Well, no.

The feet could buckle the knees of any defender. The arm is a blessing from a supreme being.

The judgment? Not the best. No, not yet.

Vick cost the Hokies with a couple of costly fumbles in the Sugar Bowl.

He is what he is — a blossoming high-risk, high-reward talent still with a few warts. But not many. Along with becoming the nation's leader in passing efficiency, he finished 10th in the Big East in rushing.

"Somebody asked me, 'Would you rather play Virginia Tech without Vick or (All-America defensive end) Corey Moore," Florida State coach Bobby Bowden said. "I said Vick. We can double-team Moore. There isn't a darn thing you can do about Vick. I knew he was good, but didn't know he was that good."

The mere fact that Vick didn't implode under the bright lights of the Superdome should have been validation enough. Heisman voters had seen enough earlier, placing him third in the final voting. It was believed to be the first time a freshman had been invited to the Downtown Athletic Club.

Then Vick came out and shocked the world, dodging speedy Florida State defenders to the point of exhaustion. The topper is that Vick did all this as a 19-year-old redshirt freshman. Or, if you prefer, about like the Beatles or Springsteen when they hit it big.

"All the time, every day," Vick said, "I don't go a day without signing somebody's autograph. I'm used to that, it comes with the position."

DOUG PENSINGER

If you're Joe Montana, maybe. Not if you're a teenager still shy about giving interviews.

"When he played against us he was still banged up," Clemson offensive coordinator Rich Rodriguez said of a 31-11 Tech victory early in the season. "After the national championship game I was saying, 'This guy is scary.' It's unbelievable how good he could be.

"You know what amazes me? Florida State is about as fast as you can find on defense. He made some moves and shook some guys like I never thought you could do against Florida State."

How did it all happen? It many ways, Vick's success was calculated. While at Warwick High, he competed against crosstown rival Ronald Curry. Curry wanted to play basketball as well and went to North Carolina.

Vick was being courted by the likes of Syracuse, who saw him as a replacement for Donovan McNabb. When Vick chose Virginia Tech, it raised eyebrows. Sure, they had nice special teams and defense, but could Vick make a difference?

It was decided by consensus that Vick would sit his freshman year. Al Clark was a senior quarterback in 1998. It made sense to get Vick's athletics and academics on a safe path before turning him loose on the country.

He traveled with the team to every away game, learning the routine so that nothing would be a surprise when it was his time to play. After games, Bustle would ask his prodigy, "What did you learn tonight?"

Vick's high school coach Tommy Reamon was instrumental in preparing his former star for what was to come.

"People have been in awe of Michael not playing his first year but I say, 'Do you remember when you were a freshman?' " Rea-

Serious Bourbon Since 1870.

Old Forester Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whisky, 43-50% Alc. by Volume (86-100 proof).
Old Forester Distilling Company, Louisville, KY ©1999. Please enjoy Old Forester responsibly.

SENSATIONAL SOPHOMORES

Michael Vick isn't the only sensational sophomore quarterback in the nation. Several others made their mark last season as freshmen, and more are poised to grow into key full-time roles in 2000. Here's a look at the top 10 sophomore stars-in-the- making.

■ Kyle Boller, Cal

As a true freshman, Boller went through some growing pains in a ghastly Cal offense, completing 100 of 259 passes for 1,303 yards and 13 scores. He spent the winter rehabbing a shoulder injury that kept him out of the season-finale, and looks like the main (only?) man of the Bears offense in 2000.

■ Brooks Bollinger, Wisconsin

OK, so he doesn't run as fast as Michael Vick (what QB does?) and he doesn't throw as hard as Vick (what QB does?), but Bollinger does both well and he has that tough-as-nails leadership thing going for him. It was Bollinger, rather than Ron Dayne, who made the difference for Wisconsin last season.

■ Ken Dorsey, Miami

There was no crying in Miami when Kenny Kelly decided to pursue a professional baseball career because the Hurricanes loved what they saw from Dorsey last season. Coming in as an injury replacement, Dorsey was simply fabulous, completing 60 percent of his passes with 11 TDs and just two interceptions.

■ C.J. Leak, Wake Forest

Leak was the story of signing day 1999, when he turned down a football scholarship to Notre Dame for one at Wake Forest. He had some cameos as a true freshman and was able to slowly build toward this season when the job is his to lose.

■ Calvin McCall, Maryland

McCall beat out returning starter Randall Jones in last year's fall camp, and in between handoffs to record-setting running back Lamont Jordan, passed for 1,264 yards. McCall, who played a bit role on Maryland's basketball team, can't rest easy; sophomore Latrez Harrison wants playing time, too.

■ Carson Palmer, USC

A broken right collarbone cost him the final eight games of 1999, but it did allow him to redshirt and retain three years of eligibility. With his size (6-5, 220), accuracy and rifle arm, NFL scouts are hoping he doesn't stay that long. He was healthy in the spring, ready to pick up where he left off — he was completing 73.6 percent of his passes before being injured.

■ Casey Printers, TCU

His efficiency rating of 133.5 ranked second in the nation among freshman quarterbacks who had enough pass attempts to qualify, and Printers will be counted on more heavily this season as coach Dennis Franchione tries to get the passing game up to the level of the LaDainian Tomlinson-led running game.

■ Chris Simms, Texas

The nation's top QB recruit in 1999, Simms will be in the midst of the nation's highest-profile quarterback controversy of the season. His competition: Big 12 Co-Offensive Player of the Year Major Applewhite, coming off reconstructive knee surgery.

■ Jason Thomas, UNLV

At 6-4, 240, he's a marvelously talented athlete … who has yet to play a down and who still has to win the job over senior Jason Vaughn and sophomore Matt Ray. Thomas was a big-time recruit in 1998, but transferred from USC in 1999 after as Carson Palmer gained the starting job.

KYLE BOLLER

G. NEWMAN LOWRANCE/THE SPORTING IMAGE

■ Tyler Watts, Alabama

Rotated every series with junior Andrew Zow in the SEC title game and the Orange Bowl, and is eager to claim the job full time. Watts is the better running threat, but Zow has more experience. The Tide would like to settle on one QB, but this competition might never end.

KEEP AN EYE ON

■ Kirk Farmer, Missouri

Started until suffering a broken leg in the sixth game of the season.

■ Jason Gesser, Washington State

A broken hand limited him to six games last season, but has lots of skills.

■ Robby Hampton and Gary Brashears, Arkansas

Coach Houston Nutt ended spring without a clear winner, saying both would play.

■ Dontrell Jackson, Ohio

Tough for a MAC option QB to get attention, but he had nearly 1,300 total yards in '99.

■ Kliff Kingsbury, Texas Tech

The main man for Mike Leach, who directed Tim Couch and Josh Heupel to record seasons.

■ Joey Mathews, Tennessee

Still has to win the job, but as a huge recruit in 1999, he has big-time potential.

■ Troy Nunes, Syracuse

Nunes was the best option in a QB race that sometimes went three-deep last season.

■ Andy Sahm, Bowling Green

He's got the size (6-6) and the offense to bear serious watching.

■ Cory Paus, UCLA

He'll battle with fellow sophomore Ryan McCann in the fall, but Paus was mostly the main guy last season.

NFL NBA NCAA NHL MLB NASCAR Tennis Soccer Golf Home
Sport hits
TOP 2nd HOU 2LOS 2 ***** INFO COL AVALANCHE ES2 SAN JOSE SHARKS *****
NASA SPORTS INTERNATIONAL
WORLD'S LARGEST SPORTSBOOK
¡Football Action You Can Bet On!
www.betonsports.com
Sports Newspapers
Horse Racing Results
Sports Categories
Sports Schedules
Scoreboard
Daily Odds
Weather
Stock Quotes
Golf Courses
Fantasy Leagues
Health & Fitness
Gadgets
Hits Review
Casinos
Gentlemen's Clubs
Top Sports Sites
Hot Movies
Feedback
Card Room
Games
TV Shedules
Tickets
Special Events
Shopping
Auctions
About Us
Advertise
Contact Us
ALL SPORTS SEARCH ENGINE
Submit Site Help
search
SPORTS ENCYCLOPEDIA SEARCH
Yellow Pages USA People Finder
search
Internet Edition
35 ct Daily News Flash
Weather
Let the Cup chase begin
With Curtis Joseph in goal and playoff experience behind them, the Toronto Maple Leafs are in good shape in the Eastern Conference playoffs. Joseph made 30 saves for his ninth career playoff shutout and Darcy Tucker and Mats Sundin scored Wednesday night to give the Leafs a 2-0 victory over the Ottawa Senators in their playoff opener. "It's a fine line when it comes to the playoffs," Sundin said. "The teams were evenly matched, and Cujo was the difference. He had a great game, as usual."
Taken from CNNSI
AUDIO & VIDEO BROADCASTS
CATCH THE LATEST NETCASTS
Quiet inspiration
It was anything but a calm opening day at the baseball monument known as Yankee Stadium. The chilling wind was swirling all around and the sun was blinding, a combination that seemingly made every flyball an adventure. Speaking of adventures, there was David Cone's 40-pitch grinder in the third, which fortunately for the Yankees only resulted in two Texas runs.
Taken from CBS Sportsline
A O-clay
Top-seeded Mary Pierce had no problems in her first match on clay this year, overpowering Tracy Singian 6-1, 6-3 on Wednesday in the Bausch ... Championships. The match took just over ... would have been shorter had Singian, ... 8th-ranked ... ever in the world, not ...
Headline News
Rangers lose Nedved to rib injury
Irish to reportedly hire Doherty
Hawks prey on Bird's Pacers
Euro 2000 preview
Panthers' Bure out 6 months after knee surgery
Reports: Notre Dame hires Doherty as coach
Casino Tips
Blackjack is the easiest game to get comps, meals, tickets, etc. Ask and maybe you will recieve.
Sports Trivia
Who has played the most games in NBA History?
Kareem Abdul-Jabbar
Larry Bird
Michael ...dan
Sporthits.com

Sporthits has recently launched the largest and most comprehensivedirectory/search engine on the Web devoted primarily to sports and other key interests ofsports fans. Sporthits provides up to the minute scores, line updates, weather information,horse racing info including links to all tracks, schedules for all sporting events,TV listings and much more.

Whether it's stock quotes, reviews of hotels, restaurants,gentlemen's clubs, places to buy gifts or sports memorabilia,it is all right here - just one click away at:

www.sporthits.com

mon said. "Now you're going to tell me how you want my child to be a quarterback in a million-dollar business and put that pressure on him when I know him better than you. Tech was excellent on how they began to develop him."

Actually, Vick turned out to be the crowning recruiting achievement of a Big East champion. The 1996 class produced stars such as running back Shyrone Stith, kicker Shayne Graham, offensive tackle Anthony Lambo and the entire secondary — Cory Bird, Ike Charlton, Nick Sorensen and Anthony Midget.

The dynamite was in place. The detonator was Vick.

His 4.33 speed was suited more for a receiver. His left-handed throws confused defenses used to playing right-handed quarterbacks. His release is from the ear ... "quick" doesn't begin to describe it.

His intentions were best known only to him. How can a defense game plan for a guy when the offensive line doesn't even know what he's going to do?

"One time," Vick said, recalling a play in the Sugar Bowl, "when I spun around twice and threw the ball out of bounds, I didn't even know what I was doing."

It started quietly against James Madison in the opener. Vick ran for three touchdowns against the Dukes before leaving with an ankle injury sustained when he scored a touchdown on a forward flip over a defensive player — not a showboat move, just the best way to get into the end zone.

He took the next week off against UAB before returning, hobbled, against Clemson.

Vick threw three interceptions and was overshadowed by an aggressive defense. The next week Virginia didn't know what hit it. Vick, playing in his first road game, completed seven of nine passes for 222 yards. That's 24.6 yards per pass. In the first quarter, he threw a 60-yard scoring pass to Andre Davis and a 31-7 rout was under way.

Victory No. 5 barely registered nationally. Virginia Tech beat Rutgers 58-20 with Vick completing 11 of 12 for 248 yards. However, the nation was shocked the next week when Syracuse went to Blacksburg. The Hokies showed they were something special that night with a 62-0 victory.

That's about the time the national debate began about Virginia Tech's worthiness as a national champion.

"He's the best I've ever seen," Virginia Tech running backs coach Billy Hite said. "I made the statement a year ago. Syracuse is getting ready to find out how we felt the last four years (facing McNabb). I think right now he's better than what happened at Syracuse."

On Nov. 6 at West Virginia, it became apparent that the Hokies were destined to go undefeated. Vick's amazing 26-yard scramble set up the game-winning field goal — you saw it on all the highlights: just as he seemed to be going out of bounds to stop the clock, he jetted up the sideline, past, over and around potential tacklers — and has been memorialized as the cornerstone to an 11-0 season.

As he progresses through his career, there are two things to understand about Vick — The Flick and Reamon.

The flick is the seemingly effortless way that Vick throws. Flat-footed 50-yard spirals are the norm. It goes against the usual mechanics of a quarterback, but it works.

"The first time I saw him was the 10th or 11th grade," Bustle said. "When I looked at film, I saw an incredible young athlete. He can flick that ball. Sometimes you can't tell a guy's arm strength, but he had such a little flick, the ball would really move on film.

"It's a flick. It doesn't matter which way his feet are going. He goes against all my teaching tapes. It's really uncanny to me. I've got guys I coached who are in the NFL and never had one who could flick like he does."

Last year, he completed 59.2 percent of his passes, throwing only 15 times per game. That figures to change this season.

"More formations, more offensive plays," Vick promised, "We'll open it up."

Reamon was Vick's high school coach and still is his mentor. The former Missouri running back has played in the NFL, World Football League and even had a part in the movie *North Dallas Forty*.

"What you saw is what I've seen all through high school," Reamon said. "You can come in and watch film and say, 'I'll be damned.' In high school, we weren't that good on the offensive line. He was running for his life. We taught him well how to run for his life."

Reamon unabashedly gives himself credit for guiding Vick.

Vick's mother Brenda Boddie is proud, but his father is not in the picture right now. Michael needed guidance.

"You wouldn't ask Peyton Manning how he was put together and developed because you would instantly know his background with Archie Manning," Reamon said. "Michael Vick's background is me, fully loaded with experience. From Missouri, to the World Football League to the movie industry, the whole works."

Vick doesn't deny Reamon's influence. Reamon made Vick take a speech class in high school, sensing that he someday might need to sharpen his interview skills.

"The most powerful way I can say it is, 'I want my child to be like him,' " Reamon added, "not as a football player, but as a person.

And when recruiters started coming around Warwick, it was Reamon who decided that Curry and Vick would go to different schools. They had been rivals in high school, and competing for the same job at the same school would do them no good.

"No one was going to recruit both of them," Reamon said. "I told recruiters when they walked in this building, 'If you're recruiting Ronald Curry, walk right back out.'

Reamon traces his mentoring skills back to college where Missouri assistant coach Prentice Gautt took him under his wing. Gautt had been the first African-American player at Oklahoma in the 1950s and had gone on to play in the NFL. He currently runs the life skills program for the Big 12 Conference.

"He saved me a lot," Reamon said. "Before I knew what a psychiatrist was, he was one to me. His history of being the first black at Oklahoma was tremendous."

On the night of the Sugar Bowl, Vick called Reamon two hours before game time. He just wanted to say thanks. He was nervous. He wanted a pep talk. Reamon told Vick to calm down, the first quarter would be tremendously emotional.

Vick did as he was told, calmly leading the Hokies down the field on a 76-yard drive. Then Beamer decided to go for it on fourth-and-goal from the one-yard line. A Florida State defender burst through the line and slapped the ball out of Vick's hand.

The fumble was only his sixth of the year. The kid would still be great that night, just not perfect. There's plenty of time for that.

"I plan to come back an even better player, even better quarterback, mentally and physically," Vick said. "Expect a lot from me next year."

Oh yeah. We're counting on it.■

Lindy's Sports Annuals

WWW.LINDYSSPORTS.COM

FOOTBALL ANNUALS

❑ PRO ❑ PAC 10 ❑ ACC ❑ BIG 12
❑ SEC ❑ BIG TEN ❑ NATIONAL COLLEGE

BASKETBALL ANNUALS

❑ PRO ❑ COLLEGE

INDIVIDUAL COPIES	$7.95
BACK ISSUES	$9.95
COMPLETE FOOTBALL SET — IN SLIP CASE	$45.00
CANADIAN ORDERS ADD	$5.00
OVERSEAS ORDERS ADD	$10.00

Lindy's

LINDY'S SPORTS ANNUALS
2700 HWY. 280, SUITE 108
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35223
205-871-1182/PHONE
205-871-1184/FAX

COPIES ACCEPTED

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

❑ CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ENCLOSED

❑ PLEASE CHARGE: ❑ VISA ❑ MASTER CARD

ACCOUNT # _____ EXP. _____

SIGNATURE _____

Weinke Isn't Done Yet

BY DENNIS DODD

They thought Chris Weinke was history.

Florida State's quarterback arrived at a highly-anticipated Jan. 10 press conference dressed for success. Pressed slacks, open-collared dress shirt, sports jacket. For a guy who is more at home in a ratty baseball cap and sweat suit, the message was clear that Florida State's junior quarterback meant business … in this case, business had to be translated as the NFL.

"I thought he was gone," offensive coordinator Mark Richt told the *St. Petersburg Times* that day.

Instead, Weinke surprised everyone by announcing he was coming back for his senior season at Florida State. The fallout will be felt throughout the 2000 season. With Weinke returning for his senior season, the Seminoles are favored to defend their national championship.

"Chris Weinke is the leader of our team," Florida State coach Bobby Bowden said before the 'Noles beat Virginia Tech in the Sugar Bowl. "Our kids will say that. I don't have to say that. Sometimes you have a leader on offense that the defense will follow. All players follow Weinke. He's the best one thing we've got going for us now."

And now he's back for a final run on a team that returns 13 seniors from Bowden's first undefeated season. In a way, it bucks a trend of high-profile players coming out early. At 28, Weinke is considered a veteran even by NFL standards.

But in another way, it continues a trend started three years ago by Tennessee's Peyton Manning. The budding NFL star stayed his senior season for the sheer love of college football.

The following year, Ricky Williams did the same thing at Texas. And then Ron Dayne at Wisconsin. And now Weinke.

There is more at work in Weinke's situation. His age and lack of mobility are working against him, and he might not have been picked before the third round.

"I had 15 or 20 callers over the weekend who said, 'Why wouldn't you go?' " Weinke said in January. "For me, personally, I'm not at the top of the mountain yet."

At 6-5, 240 pounds, Weinke has the size to be an NFL quarterback … but, perhaps, not the mobility. In this age of Michael Vick, that means a lot to NFL scouts. After hearing that, Weinke said he is dedicated to becoming the best quarterback in the country in 2000.

So … here goes, working on all elements of his game, especially his footwork and the like, to see if he can improve at 28 the way most players hope to improve at 21.

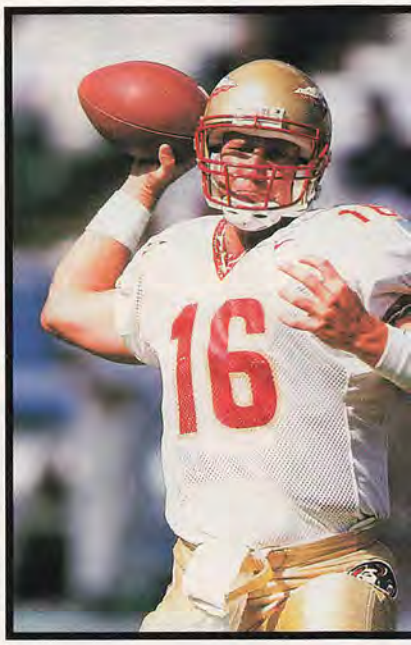
While his age would give him an edge in maturity over other prospects, a six-or-seven-year difference also means he doesn't have the same kind of long-term upside. His value as an NFL player might very well be as a career backup, with the skills and maturity to run the team, but not to be counted upon to "take it to the next level" over the long haul.

Well, he's certainly been able to take Florida State to the next level.

The roundabout career of Weinke has been recounted many times: He signed with Florida State in 1990 out of St. Paul, Minn., but signed a baseball contract with the Toronto Blue Jays. Six years later and burned out on baseball, Weinke called Florida State hoping there was still a place for him in Bowden's program.

There was a spot, but that was all that was guaranteed.

"He believes in himself," Richt said. "He's a mature man. He goes and plays baseball and he doesn't get to the bigs. I guarantee you there's a bunch of disappointment. He had to learn how to deal with it. Some kids come into major college football and they're stars in high school. They come in here and become the starter. Something bad happens to them and they don't know how to react."



BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN

Richt all but begged Weinke not to come to Florida State in 1997. Dan Kendra was going to be the starting quarterback. Florida State was heavily recruiting Drew Henson, the nation's No. 1 prep quarterback.

"I sat him down and told him, 'the chances of you beating out Kendra aren't that great," Richt said. "He said, 'I understand competition. I want to play in one of these big games.'

"When Weinke committed to us, I was kind of wanting to get Drew. I didn't want Weinke to come and say after a few months, 'This isn't for me.' "

Henson then committed to Michigan. A year later, in spring practice, Kendra blew out his knee and eventually moved to fullback.

And suddenly, it was Weinke, who has proven to himself and anyone watching that, indeed, this is for him. He has lost one game (21-1) in his two years as a starter, a stretch interrupted when he suffered a broken vertebrae in his neck.

That injury helped him focus on what he's all about. And the more significant the situation becomes, the better Weinke seems to get.

Fourteen times last season, opponents tied or took the lead on Florida State. Nine times, he drove the Seminoles back and answered with a touchdown or field goal on the ensuing possession to preserve the perfect season. On those 14 drives, Weinke completed 70 percent of his passes and threw for more than 400 yards.

His last two games of 1999 were his best in a 3,103-yard, 25-touchdown season. Weinke had his fingerprints all over a dramatic 30-23 victory at Florida that set up the Sugar Bowl. Then in the sweet national championship game against Virginia Tech, he threw for 329 yards and four touchdowns.

Duplicating those numbers would be twice as nice, especially if it improves his draft position.

"There's something very exciting," Weinke said amid the Sugar Bowl celebration, "about going undefeated two years in a row."

Yes, they thought Chris Weinke was history … but it turns out he's intent on making it.■

Grill Seeks Long-Term Relationship. Serious Inquiries Only.

With enough head-turning features to keep things really interesting, this grill is built to last a lifetime. Broilmaster Premium Gas Grills come with the most durable features known to man. Our adjustable, cast iron cooking grids are porcelain coated. The extra-thick, cast aluminum grill heads faithfully maintain the heat. And Broilmaster's stainless steel bow-tie burner system with infinite control levels is even patented. All this, plus an extensive industry-leading warranty that ensures the honeymoon never ends. Begin your love affair today. For your free brochure and recipe booklet, call 1-800-255-0403.

More Than A Grill, A Lifelong Relationship.

Call 1-800-255-0403 *for your free brochure and recipe booklet.*

BROILMASTER
PREMIUM GAS GRILLS

The Most Durable Grill Known To Man

©2000 Broilmaster Premium Gas Grills. A division of Martin Industries, Inc.

OFFENSE SELLS

Wanna be a Head Coach?

BY DENNIS DODD

MIKE LEACH WONDERS how it all happened so fast.

One moment he was a 25-year old kid with a law degree helping to represent a Hell's Angel.

The next, his life changed so radically you'd swear he had a guardian angel.

Athletic directors want him.

Rivals envy him.

Players can't wait to play for him.

Women … well, never mind. One of the hottest coaches in the country is still grounded in some ways, married with children.

"It's like John Steinbeck said after (receiving praise for) The Grapes of Wrath," said Leach, Texas Tech's new head coach, "I don't know if I deserve it, but I'm glad I got it."

SCOTT HALLERAN/ALLSPORT USA

HAL MUMME

Leach's story, or one similar to it, is being told in many ways in many places around college football this season. There's no more school of hard knocks … there's not even Chuck Knox. That was last century.

These days, the best way to move up the ladder in college football is to be an offensive genius.

These advocates for the four-receiver set can command big salaries and petulant quarterbacks, skirting the corner and tradition at the same time. Defense? Not exactly an afterthought in football, but in this day and age athletic directors are thinking entertainment first.

"That's exactly right — that has the most to do with it," Kentucky coach Hal Mumme said. "Selling tickets."

Check your local listings for times and dates of the next rising star. Call them the progeny of Bobby Bowden and LaVell Edwards — two guys who were ahead of the curve when they rose to prominence 25 years ago at Florida State and BYU.

"My biggest influence is LaVell Edwards," Mumme said. "To me he's not gotten enough credit. He's coached out there in the WAC all these years. He had a vision back in the 1970s that went along with the change. I really think he changed the game of football."

Even Edwards and Bowden could not have foreseen what they wrought. In our pre-fab foresight society, even the grand old college game is being marketed like a video game.

Leach, 39, is like the rest of the young and restless. He can A) move the ball, and B) turn a program around in a hurry while doing it.

When Texas Tech kicks it off this fall, Leach will have gone from coaching Tim Couch at Kentucky, to turning around Oklahoma's offense, to getting his first Division I-A coaching job, all in less than two years. Punk rock lasted longer than that. No telling how far Leach will go.

In the past two years, 22 of the 34 Division I-A hires have been coaches who made their reputations on offense. These are guys with panache, swagger and a game plan that sells tickets.

Look around. Former NFL head coach June Jones took his run-and-shoot offense to Hawaii last season and tied for the biggest turnaround in NCAA history — from 0-12 to 9-4.

Dennis Erickson, a longtime single-back guru, took a step down from the NFL and led Oregon State out of a 30-year losing streak and into a bowl game.

Gary Crowton, former Louisiana Tech head coach, parlayed Tim Rattay and a record-setting performance against Nebraska into an NFL job with the Chicago Bears and is widely seen as a strong candidate to head a major program for 2001.

This is football today. Offensive coaches are as much rock stars as field generals.

"The offensive guys who are gaining attention are guys throwing the ball and spreading people out," Crowton said. "It's fun to watch, it sells seats and you can win with not always the greatest players."

What more do you need? Crowton, 43, finds himself coaching Cade McNown after helping develop Rattay.

Jones could run for governor in Hawaii. Erickson could run for king in Oregon.

Purdue coach Joe Tiller has proved you can win in the Big Ten using a passing offense instead of a cloud of dust.

"I'm really impressed with the job Joe Tiller has done," Jones said. "A lot of philosophies are similar. That's some of Steve Spurrier's success, too. He's willing to take chances and throw the ball in a conference that hadn't seen the forward pass in a number of years."

Florida State's Mark Richt, 40, could wake up any morning and announce, "I'm ready," and have almost any job he wanted. The fact that he has stuck by Bowden's side for 14 years is a tribute to the offense and the program. It also teases athletic directors looking for new coaches each year.

Richt keeps re-inventing Bowden's innovative offense while the rest of the country keeps playing catch-up.

"Texas throws the ball a lot. Florida throws the ball a lot. Definitely, you go to a place where they use a wide-open offense," said Jeremy Crabtree of the *National Recruiting Advisor*. "These kids are definitely putting that near the top of their list."

Mumme arrived at Kentucky in 1997 producing a blizzard of points. A year later, the state of Kentucky was officially in love

TICKETS, SO...

Get on the Offensive Side of the Ball

THE NEW FACES OF THE GAME

SCOTT HALLERAN/ALLSPORT USA

They aren't all household names yet, they aren't all young, they aren't all doing it the same way ... but the hot coaching names in college football are all about offense.

- **RICKY BUSTLE**, Virginia Tech — Michael Vick's coordinator.
- **TOM CABLE**, Idaho — Former Colorado offensive coordinator gets head coaching job at 35.
- **DANA DIMEL**, Houston — Former Kansas State offensive coach made Wyoming competitive in every game.
- **DENNIS ERICKSON**, Oregon State — Veteran found redemption after mediocre results in the NFL.
- **JUNE JONES**, Hawaii — Doing it in reverse, going from the NFL to paradise.
- **HAL MUMME**, Kentucky — From Valdosta, Ga., to Kentucky renaissance.
- **GARY NORD**, UTEP — Hand-picked by athletic director Bob Stull, an offensive guy himself.
- **MARK RICHT**, Florida State — Offensive coordinator will soon grab a high-profile job.
- **RICH RODRIGUEZ**, Clemson — The hottest offensive coordinator this side of Schwartzkopf.

with Mumme's "Air Raid" offense. It produced the program's first New Year's Day bowl in 46 years.

A new day is dawning. Just ask C.M. Newton, who recently retired as Kentucky's athletic director in the spring at age 69.

"I was asked if I were a 45-year old athletic director with a bunch of kids at home, would I have hired a guy like Hal?" Newton said. "I might have given some thought to hiring a so-called 'name' coach. But I was interested in getting us back competitive.

"I said, 'Let's go get somebody who will air it out.' It's a style of play that players love to play and fans like. Hal is a lot like Rick Pitino. I told Hal that we were looking for someone who will press, fast break and shoot the threes on grass. "

That's all Adolph Rupp's extended family needed to hear, a basketball analogy. This ball is oblong, but Kentucky fans are still snatching up every available seat.

Almost every team from Nebraska to Florida State is incorporating some form of Mumme and Jones' plan. Jones' run-and-shoot is a great equalizer for a program that can't match up physically with a lot of programs. Mumme puts a premium on a quarterback who is a coach on the field, frequently audibling at the last second into what he hopes is a more effective play.

"The premium is speed," Jones said. "Whether they be big or small, if you're going to compromise you're going to compromise for speed. A lot of times you can't get the big, fast kid because Notre Dame wants him. Our offense is going to attract guys that want to play at the next level."

It's the quickness of the revolution that blinds some.

While coach at Louisiana Tech, Crowton took an ill-advised game against Nebraska to kick off the 1998 season. The Bulldogs lost 56-27, but left a lasting impression on Nebraska and the country. His quarterback, Tim Rattay, threw for 590 yards, a record against the Huskers. His top receiver, Troy Edwards, set an NCAA record with 405 yards receiving. Within a year, Louisiana Tech was invited to join the Western Athletic Conference; Rattay had been in *Sports Illustrated*, Edwards was drafted by the Steelers; and Crowton was with the Bears. It wasn't exactly overnight success ... but it was pretty darn close.

"Getting on television was a great thing," Crowton said. "It wasn't one of the best teams I've had, but it got us exposed. The notoriety of what we could do with the ball was fun to watch. It helped in recruiting. It kind of brought national attention. That helped them get in that conference. People will talk about Louisiana Tech."

Crowton's offense — developed over the years during stops at BYU, Colorado State, Boston College and Georgia Tech — was no gimmick. While working for Tom Coughlin at Boston College, Crowton coached Glen Foley, who engineered the biggest upset

COACHES KNOW: GOTTA SCORE TO WIN

Defense might win championships, but offense wins jobs.

A look at the 115 Division I-A coaches shows that 72 of them — 64.3 percent — built their pre-head coaching careers predominantly on offense, while 39 were defense-oriented as assistants, with four pretty well split between the two before becoming a head coach.

This isn't to say their teams lean more to one side or the other (you can be the judge of that), but their path to the head coaching office more often than not went through the offensive staff meetings.

Here's a conference-by-conference breakdown:

ACC
Offense (5): Tommy Bowden (Clemson), Bobby Bowden (Florida State), Jim Caldwell (Wake Forest), Carl Franks (Duke), George Welsh (Virginia).
Defense (4): Chuck Amato (North Carolina State), George O'Leary (Georgia Tech), Carl Torbush (North Carolina), Ron Vanderlinden (Maryland).

BIG 12
Offense (5): Terry Allen (Kansas), Gary Barnett (Colorado), Mack Brown (Texas), Mike Leach (Texas Tech), Frank Solich (Nebraska).
Defense (6): Dan McCarney (Iowa State), Bob Simmons (Oklahoma State), R.C. Slocum (Texas A&M), Larry Smith (Missouri), Kevin Steele (Baylor), Bobby Stoops (Oklahoma).
Both (1): Bill Snyder (Kansas State).

BIG EAST
Offense (5): Walt Harris (Pittsburgh), Don Nehlen (West Virginia), Tom O'Brien (Boston College), Terry Shea (Rutgers), Bobby Wallace (Temple).
Defense (2): Frank Beamer (Virginia Tech), Paul Pasqualoni (Syracuse).
Both (1): Butch Davis (Miami, Fla.).

BIG TEN
Offense (8): Cam Cameron (Indiana), Kirk Ferentz (Iowa), Glen Mason (Minnesota), Joe Paterno (Penn State), Joe Tiller (Purdue), Ron Turner (Illinois), Randy Walker (Northwestern), Bobby Williams (Michigan State).
Defense (3): Barry Alvarez (Wisconsin), Lloyd Carr (Michigan), John Cooper (Ohio State)

BIG WEST
Offense (6): Tom Cable (Idaho), Mick Dennehy (Utah State), Darrell Dickey (North Texas), Joe Hollis (Arkansas State), Dirk Koetter (Boise State), Tony Samuel (New Mexico State).

CONFERENCE USA
Offense (7): Todd Berry (Army), Jeff Bower (Southern Miss), Watson Brown (UAB), Dana Dimel (Houston), Steve Logan (East Carolina), Chris Scelfo (Tulane), Rip Scherer (Memphis).
Defense (2): Rick Minter (Cincinnati), John L. Smith (Louisville).

INDEPENDENTS
Offense (3): Jack Bicknell (Louisiana Tech), Mike Kruczek (Central Florida), Charlie Weatherby (Navy).
Defense (4): Jerry Baldwin (La.-Lafayette), Bob Davie (Notre Dame), Randy Edsall (Connecticut), Andy McCollum (Middle Tennessee St.).
Both (1): Bobby Keasler (La.-Monroe).

MID-AMERICAN
Offense (6): Craig Cirbus (Buffalo), Mike DeBord (Central Michigan), Bill Lynch (Ball State), Lee Owens (Akron), Gary Pinkel (Toledo), Jeff Woodruff (Eastern Michigan).
Defense (7): Gary Blackney (Bowling Green), Gary Darnell (Western Michigan), Jim Grobe (Ohio), Terry Hoeppner (Miami, O.), Joe Novak (Northern Illinois), Dean Pees (Kent), Bobby Pruett (Marshall).

MOUNTAIN WEST
Offense (5): Fisher DeBerry (Air Force), LaVell Edwards (Brigham Young), Ron McBride (Utah), John Robinson (UNLV), Ted Tollner (San Diego State).
Defense (3): Vic Koennig (Wyoming), Rocky Long (New Mexico), Denny Schuler (Colorado State).

PACIFIC-10
Offense (8): Mike Bellotti (Oregon), Dennis Erickson (Oregon St.), Paul Hackett (USC), Rick Neuheisel (Washington), Mike Price (Washington St.), Bruce Snyder (ASU), Bob Toledo (UCLA), Tyrone Willingham (Stanford).
Defense (1): Tom Holmoe (California).
Both (1): Dick Tomey (Arizona).

SEC
Offense (7): David Cutcliffe (Mississippi), Jim Donnan (Georgia), Phil Fulmer (Tennessee), Lou Holtz (South Carolina), Hal Mumme (Kentucky), Houston Nutt (Arkansas), Steve Spurrier (Florida).
Defense (5): Mike DuBose (Alabama), Nick Saban (LSU), Jackie Sherrill (Mississippi State), Tommy Tuberville (Auburn), Woody Widenhofer (Vanderbilt).

WAC
Offense (7): Dave Baldwin (San Jose State), Mike Cavan (SMU), Dennis Franchione (TCU), Ken Hatfield (Rice), Pat Hill (Fresno St.), June Jones (Hawaii), Gary Nord (UTEP).
Defense (2): Keith Burns (Tulsa), Chris Tormey (Nevada).

of the 1993 season over Notre Dame. While at Louisiana Tech from 1996-98, Crowton coached the Bulldogs to victories over California and Mississippi State. In 1999 under new coach Jack Bicknell III, Louisiana Tech shocked Alabama using much of the offense Crowton had installed.

Who knew Mumme four years ago? The then Valdosta State coach won a Division II national championship in 1996 throwing the ball all over the lot. Somehow he caught the eye of the venerable Newton who'd just fired consecutive retreads — Jerry Claiborne and Bill Curry.

Then Mumme and Leach, his offensive coordinator, shocked them all.

They did it by installing the spread offense and finding their perfect quarterback in Couch. It helped that Mumme was a colorful quote. And even when Kentucky lost, it invariably did so scoring at least 30 points.

Defense? Those are details that they'll deal with later.

TOMASSO DEROSA/TDSI

"Fans nowadays appreciate the passing game more because they can see the ball," Mumme said. "They spend the whole offseason watching college hoops and the NBA and they get addicted to the fast pace and being able to see the ball.

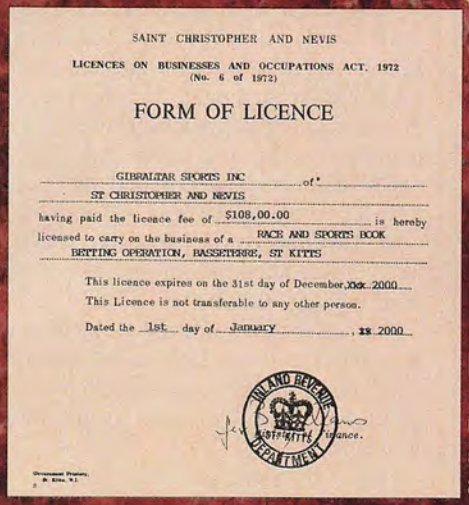
"When I first put this offense in at Copperas Cove (Texas) High School in 1986, one of the booster club people said, 'You know, Coach, one of the things fun about watching y'all play is seeing the ball.' I'd never heard that before … but think about it: In those days, a lot of high school teams would be running the Wing-T. You just can't see the ball. It kind of looks like a big wad moving down the field. It's Wad Ball."

And Wad Ball is boring ball.

In Mumme's first year, Kentucky was begging to get on the SEC's syndicated television package. Last year, 10 of its 12 games were televised. Expansion closed in both ends of Commonwealth Stadium. In recruiting, Mumme landed two of the

solid as a rock...

Gibraltar Sports, Inc.



SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

LICENCES ON BUSINESSES AND OCCUPATIONS ACT, 1972
(No. 6 of 1972)

FORM OF LICENCE

GIBRALTAR SPORTS INC of
ST CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS
having paid the licence fee of $108.00.00 is hereby
licensed to carry on the business of a RACE AND SPORTS BOOK
BETTING OPERATION, BASSETERRE, ST KITTS

This licence expires on the 31st day of December, ~~Dec~~ 2000
This Licence is not transferable to any other person.

Dated the 1st day of January, ~~19~~ 2000

INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT

Licensed by the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis

Guaranteed Withdrawal Program

Gibraltar Sports, Inc. guarantees any member requesting a withdrawal from their account Monday through Thursday (noon to 8 PM, EST), that within 48 hours of your request, you will (A) receive your check, or (B) you will be able to obtain a FedEx tracking number, confirming that your package is in Fed Ex's hands – and is on its way to you!...or Gibraltar Sports, Inc. will pay you double the amount requested!

"We always pay... and you can bet on it"

Immediate Membership
(No Fees)

A Special 10% Bonus - a one-time 10% bonus, will be added for all new members on your initial deposit only.

Minimum initial deposit $500.00

Minimum wager $50.00

We pick up all charges for deposits of $500 or more and withdrawals of $1000 or more.

Payouts Monday thru Friday.

Referral Bonus - you will receive 10% of the initial deposit of any new member that you referred to Gibraltar Sports, Inc.

- At Gibraltar Sports, you are a valued client, not just a pin #.
- Seasonal special for clients.

"Service is the secret to our success"

FOOTBALL

- Teasers—6—6-1/2—7 points Sides or Totals (Pro or College)
- Special 3 team 10 point teasers (Sides or Totals)
- Parlay Cards available by phone

BASKETBALL

- Teasers 4 and 5 points Sides or Totals (Pro or College)
- Money Lines on ALL NFL, NBA or College games 10 Points or less.

BASEBALL

- 10 cent line—Visiting, Home or Listed Pitchers available
- 2–3–4 team parlays available on all Sports (Sides or Totals)
- Future wagers on the 4 major sports
- Courteous, Professional Staff
- State of the Art computers and recording system

Why join us...

1. Guaranteed withdrawal program
2. Licensed, confidential, safe & secure
3. Administrative office open 7 days a week 10:00 am to 8:00 pm EST for deposits and withdrawals
4. You always talk to a live operator
5. You are under no pressure to play
6. All deposits of $500 or more and withdrawals of $1000 or more we pick up charges
7. Football lines up on Monday
8. We always stay open until the last game
9. We are here to service the client
10. 10% Bonus for new members only
11. We always pay our customers and you can bet on it.

Local Phone:
1-869-465-0688

in Canada:
1-800-863-2904

For a free brochure or to join...Western Union or Federal Express...call:

1-888-656-7536

100 Liverpool Row, Basseterre, St. Kitts

IT IS THE INDIVIDUAL'S RESPONSIBILITY TO DETERMINE WHETHER THESE SERVICES ARE PERMITTED UNDER THE LAWS OF ONE'S OWN JURISDICTION.

COACHING CHANGES FOR 2000

ARMY
Out: Bob Sutton (44-55-1, nine years) — Army's move to Conference USA in 1998 was Sutton's undoing.
In: Todd Berry — Rebuilt Division I-AA Illinois State, where he was hired by current Army AD Rick Greenspan.

CENTRAL MICHIGAN
Out: Dick Flynn (30-37, six years) — He won the MAC in 1994 ... then had five straight losing seasons.
In: Mike DeBord — Spent the past eight seasons with Michigan, the last three as offensive coordinator.

EASTERN MICHIGAN
Out: Rick Rasnick (20-34, five years) — Had some good players (Charlie Batch, L.J. Shelton), not enough wins.
In: Jeff Woodruff — Don James' son-in-law coached at Washington, most recently at Arizona.

HOUSTON
Out: Kim Helton (24-53, seven years) — Seven-win season (his second winning record) wasn't enough.
In: Dana Dimel — Cougs get a young coach (37) from Wyoming with personality and passing tendencies.

IDAHO
Out: Chris Tormey (33-23, five years) — Led alma mater to league title, leaves to help Nevada move to WAC.
In: Tom Cable — Returns to alma mater after spending last season as Colorado's offensive coordinator.

LSU
Out: Gerry DiNardo (32-24-1, five years) — Won bowls his first three years, slid to 6-15 in last two seasons.
In: Nick Saban — Jumped at the chance to bolt Michigan State and make $1.2 million per year.

MICHIGAN STATE
Out: Nick Saban (34-24-1, five years) — Left green of Michigan State for greener pastures at LSU.
In: Bobby Williams — Selection of MSU associate head coach a popular choice with players, fans, recruits.

NEVADA
Out: Jeff Tisdel (23-21, four years) — Fired after 3-8 season, he landed at Sierra College.
In: Chris Tormey — Idaho coach jumps to team joining the WAC (not Sun Belt, like Idaho).

NORTH CAROLINA STATE
Out: Mike O'Cain (41-40, seven years) — Coming up one-yard short vs. North Carolina spelled doom for O'Cain.
In: Chuck Amato — Florida State assistant was a player and defensive coordinator for the Wolfpack.

TEXAS TECH
Out: Spike Dykes (82-67-1, 13 years) — The 61-year-old coach called it quits on his own terms.
In: Mike Leach — Offensive whiz kid leaves Oklahoma for first college head coaching job.

TULSA
Out: Dave Rader (49-80, 12 years) — Fired in late October amid eighth straight losing season.
In: Keith Burns — Defensive guru had quality stints at Rice, Southern California, and, most recently, Arkansas.

UTAH STATE
Out: Dave Arslanian (7-15, two years) — Aggies had quick hook due to low attendance, lots of losses.
In: Mick Dennehy — Was a Division I-AA success, going 39-12 in four years at Montana.

UTEP
Out: Charlie Bailey (19-53-1, 6 years) — Resigned at 59 after long struggle trying to build lowly program.
In: Gary Nord — Upgraded UTEP's offense from 97th to 43rd in the past three seasons as coordinator.

WYOMING
Out: Dana Dimel (23-12, three years) — Another stepping stone coach in Laramie, this one bolts to Houston.
In: Vic Koenning — Cowboys moved quickly to appoint Koenning, formerly defensive coordinator.

top five offensive linemen in Ohio. So much for good ol' Ohio State.

"People said, 'You can't run that offense against cornerbacks at this level,' " Leach said. "But you go to another level and the receivers are at a higher level. It puts the ball in a lot of different people's hands. Whether you've got the best players or not, it gives you a chance."

Leach was so good at fooling defenses that he stayed only three years at Kentucky before being offered the offensive coordinator job at Oklahoma.

"I think they were cheering first downs there before Mike arrived," Mumme said.

They were begging him to stay by the end of last season. Behind Josh Heupel's arm, Oklahoma became one of only two teams in the country to have six players catch at least 20 passes. Scoring increased 20 points per game. For a once-powerful program that hasn't won a conference title since 1987, 7-5 felt like heaven.

"You tend to get more attention on offense," Leach said. "A lot of people want to throw the ball. Sometimes the quarterback gets a lot of attention. As a result, the coaches on that side of the ball do, too."

Coaching initially was a lark for Leach. While working as a law clerk in Los Angeles, he wanted to give coaching a try. Leach had blown through Brigham Young in four years and Pepperdine Law School in three when he came up for air in 1986.

"I didn't want to get old and say, 'Gee, I should have tried coaching,' " Leach said. "I figured I'd coach for a year or two and go back and be an attorney. I got the coaching bug real fast."

Leach's detour has lasted 11 years and counting. There were stops at Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo, College of the Desert and professional football in Finland before Iowa Wesleyan.

That will humble you. But it beat the alternative. As a law clerk, Leach once helped a Hell's Angel sue to run with the Olympic torch in 1984.

"There was the person who blew a fuse and killed her family and burned down the house," Leach said recalling some of his more "interesting" cases.

"There were a couple of guys from South Central Los Angeles who had been busted for stealing a car. They went down to UCLA and carjacked a couple. Somehow they decided the best thing to do was execute both of them so they wouldn't violate probation.

"Am I utilizing my law degree? Probably not."

Who cares. In comparison, staring down Nebraska's defense is a pleasant alternative — and even better-paying. In many ways, Leach is still the easy-going guy who grew up in Cody, Wyoming. He wears his trademark windbreaker and can be seen scarfing down a bagful of burgers at lunch just to save time.

Considering Leach's hat trick — Valdosta State, Kentucky and Oklahoma — Texas Tech will expect instant results. They just might get it. Leach immediately landed highly touted quarterback Jason Winn from Granada Hills (Calif.) High School.

"You've got to figure out what your identity is," Leach said.

"Nebraska and various teams run the ball. Coach (Barry) Switzer had his identity with the wishbone. I felt like I was an offensive guy. A lot of people have said the most important part of football is defense and that's probably true, but I was geared more toward offense."

And so, it seems, is the rest of college football. ■

Alicia Barry
University of Georgia

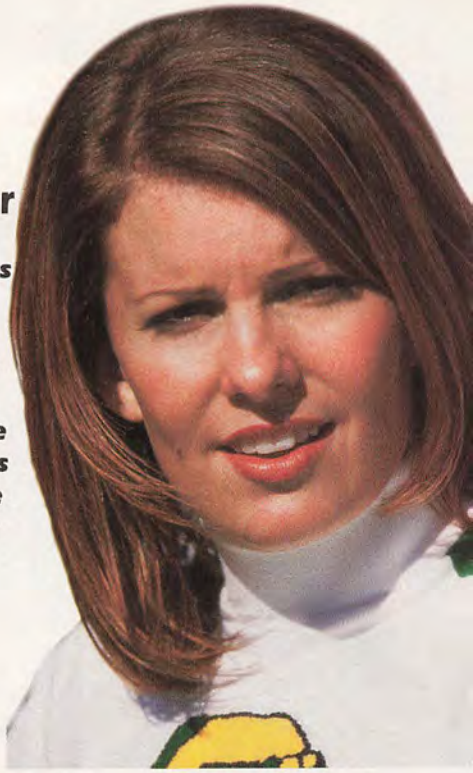
Alicia is an enthusiastic member of the 'Dawgs cheer squad. The Cordele native spends football Saturdays on the sidelines of Sanford Stadium. Her time in the classroom is spent working toward a degree in health promotions and education.

PHOTO BY SCOTT HALLERAN/ALLSPORT USA

Erin Elizabeth Spahn
Duke

A senior comparative area studies major and French minor, in her spare time Erin enjoys international travel and acting. She was selected to an international short film judging team for the Eddie Constantine Prize in Tours, France, and is a member of Phi Eta Sigma honor society.

PHOTO BY STEVE BEYER



Gillian Brinegar
Oregon

Duck fans will miss seeing Gillian's cheering talents displayed on the sidelines come next fall. A native of Salem, Gillian is a recent graduate of the University of Oregon with a degree in journalism.

PHOTO BY STEVE BEYER

Rainie Guzman
Louisiana State University

Tiger fans have enjoyed cheering along with Rainie Guzman, who served as the 1999-2000 captain for the Louisiana State pom squad — Golden Girls. Rainie spends her free time dancing, jogging and reading. This senior education major hails from Lutcher and is a member of Phi Mu sorority.

PHOTO BY R.D. MOORE

Claire Hart
TCU

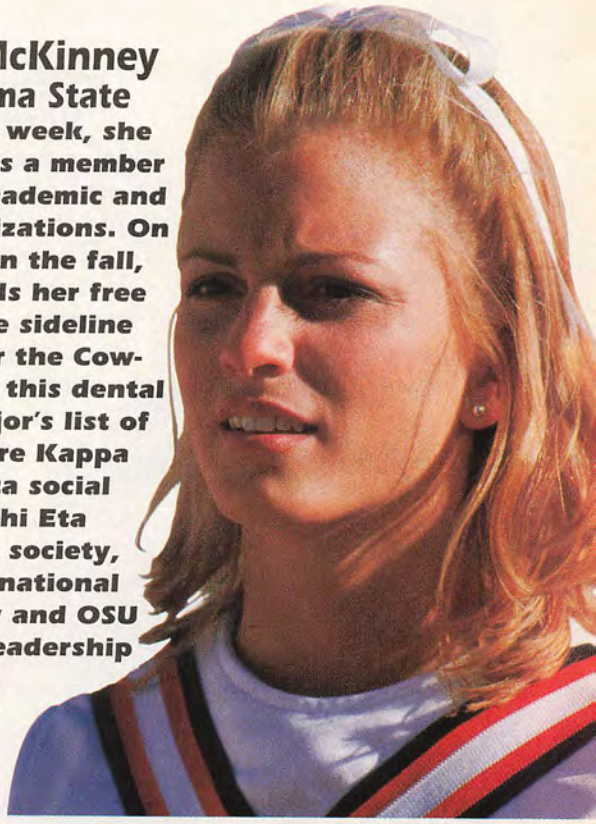
This TCU Showgirl is in her rookie season as a Horned Frog cheerleader. Claire is an e-commerce and marketing major, who enjoys dancing and spending free time with her Delta Delta Delta sorority sisters.

PHOTO BY RON KOVACH

Emily McKinney
Oklahoma State

During the week, she stays busy as a member of several academic and social organizations. On Saturdays in the fall, Emily spends her free time on the sideline cheering for the Cowboys. Among this dental hygiene major's list of activities are Kappa Alpha Theta social sorority, Phi Eta Sigma honor society, Golden Key national honor society and OSU President's Leadership Council.

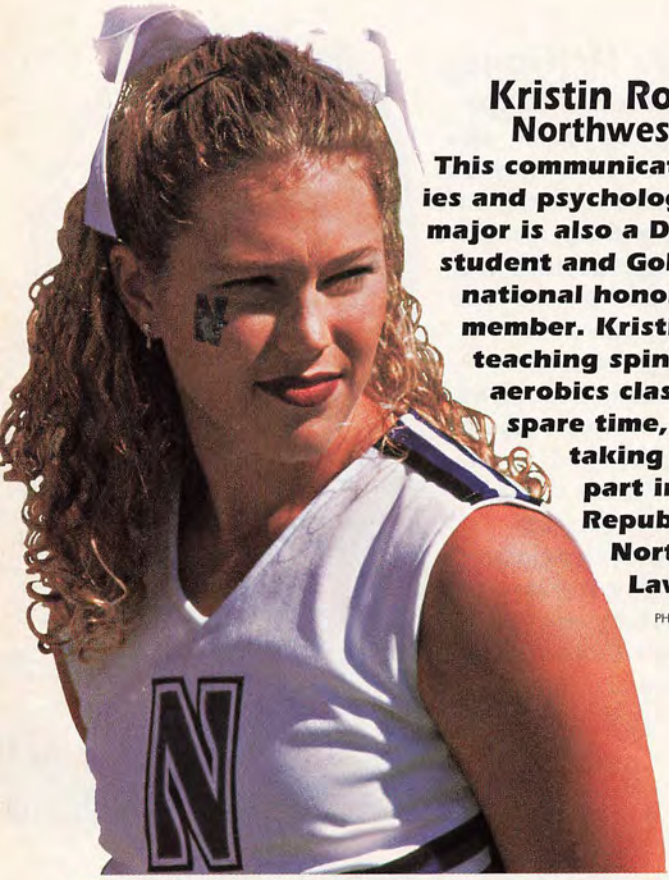
PHOTO BY STEVE BEYER



Wendy Simmons
University of Miami

Dancing and athletics are among Wendy's favorite hobbies, and Hurricane fans get to see both of these talents displayed on the sidelines each fall Saturday. A native of Ft. Lauderdale, Wendy is a United Cheerleading Association All-Star, as well as an All-State Cheerleader.

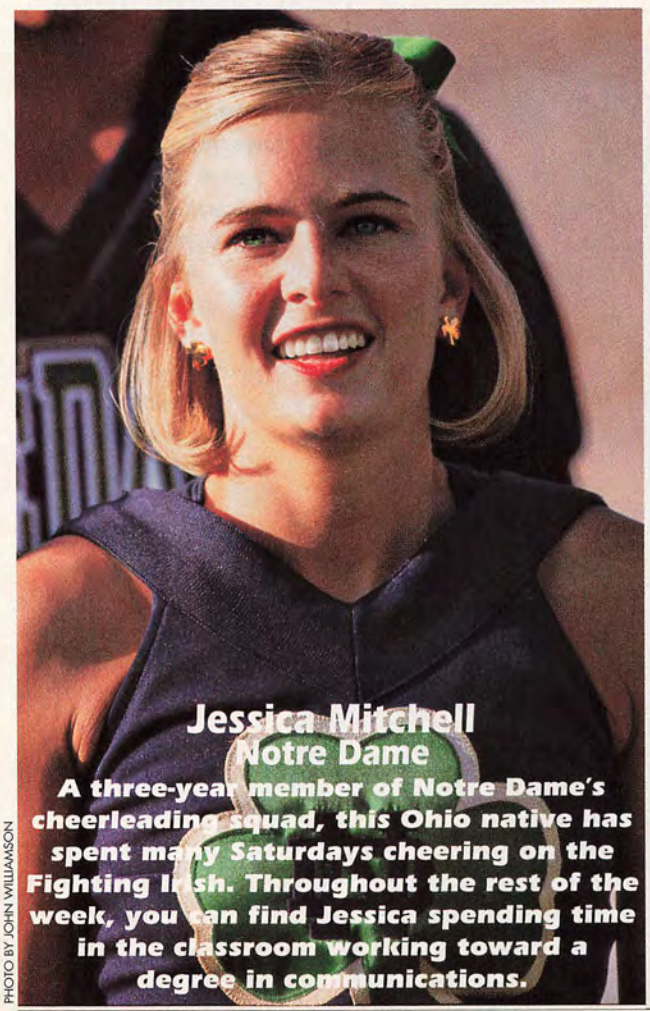
PHOTO BY STEVE BEYER



Kristin Rozum
Northwestern

This communications studies and psychology double major is also a Dean's List student and Golden Key national honor society member. Kristin enjoys teaching spinning and aerobics classes in her spare time, as well as taking an active part in College Republicans and Northwestern Law Society.

PHOTO BY STEVE BEYER



Jessica Mitchell
Notre Dame

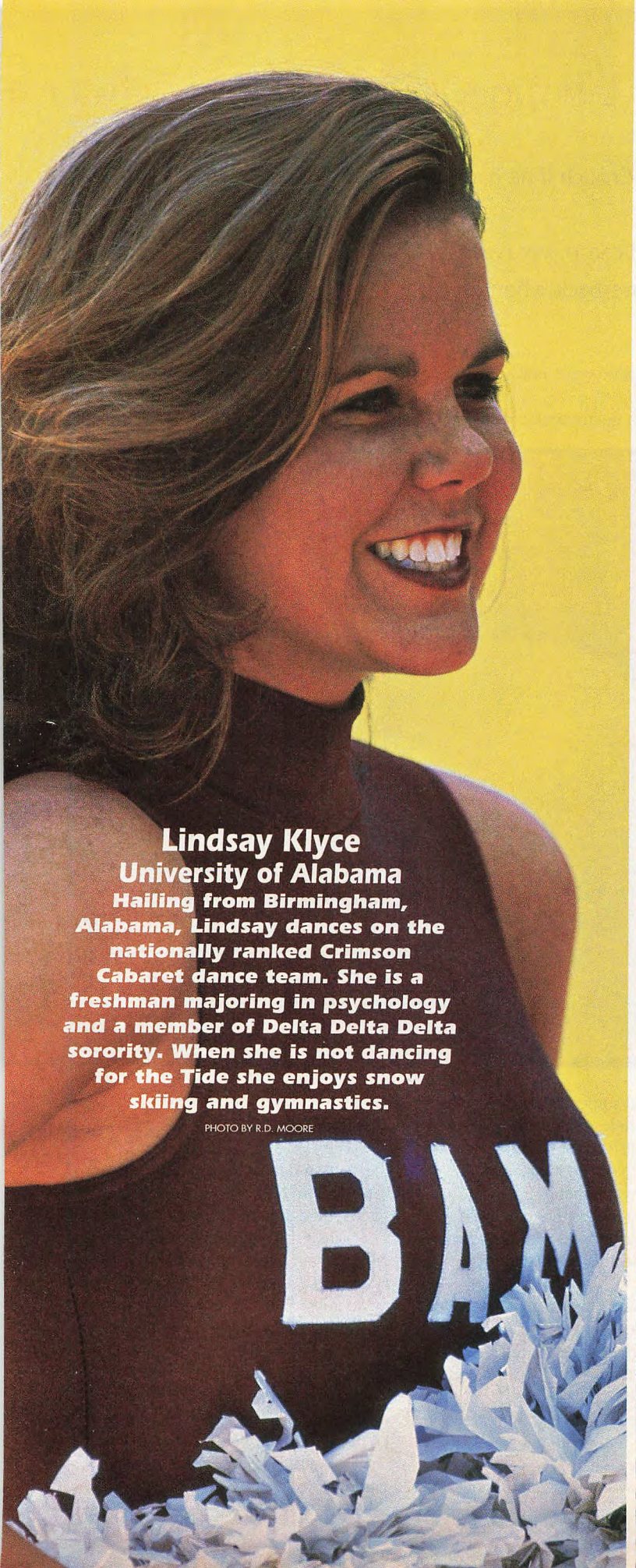
A three-year member of Notre Dame's cheerleading squad, this Ohio native has spent many Saturdays cheering on the Fighting Irish. Throughout the rest of the week, you can find Jessica spending time in the classroom working toward a degree in communications.

PHOTO BY JOHN WILLIAMSON

Tiffany Heins
University of Iowa

When she's not cheering on the Hawkeyes, Tiffany stays busy as a member of several academic and social organizations. Among this business administration major's favorite hobbies are skiing and serving as a volunteer for the Iowa Shrine Bowl and the Children's Miracle Network.

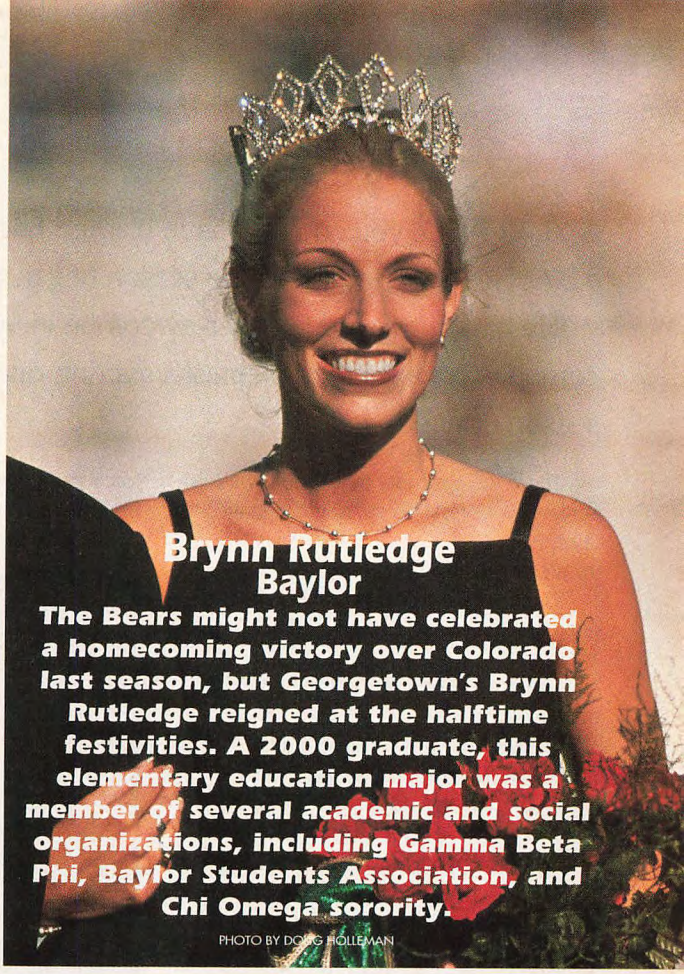
PHOTO BY STEVE BEYER



Lindsay Klyce
University of Alabama

Hailing from Birmingham, Alabama, Lindsay dances on the nationally ranked Crimson Cabaret dance team. She is a freshman majoring in psychology and a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority. When she is not dancing for the Tide she enjoys snow skiing and gymnastics.

PHOTO BY R.D. MOORE



Brynn Rutledge
Baylor

The Bears might not have celebrated a homecoming victory over Colorado last season, but Georgetown's Brynn Rutledge reigned at the halftime festivities. A 2000 graduate, this elementary education major was a member of several academic and social organizations, including Gamma Beta Phi, Baylor Students Association, and Chi Omega sorority.

PHOTO BY DOUG HOLLEMAN

PHOTO BY TOMASSO DEROSA / TDSI

Mary Casey O'Dell
University of Virginia

A senior finance major, Mary is a National Collegiate Scholar as well as a four-year Dean's List student. This member of Delta Gamma sorority serves as vice-president of finance, as well as a Commerce Council member and 4th-year class "Trustee".

Eric Crouch No Longer Has to Share

A YEAR AGO, you couldn't have blamed Eric Crouch if he had a bit of an edge to him as the season began.

He had outplayed Bobby Newcombe in fall camp, yet Newcombe was named the Nebraska starting quarterback when the season opened.

There were rumors that Crouch had, at least for several hours, quit the team upon hearing the news that he was No. 2 from coach Frank Solich.

There was talk that he would change positions, never to play quarterback again.

There were rumblings that he would transfer.

"It was one thing after another," Crouch said. "Just a whirlwind."

The whirlwind down the Nebraska plain blew that backup quarterback into a tizzy that eventually left him as the Big 12's co-offensive Player of the Year.

This season, there are no questions about the identity of the Cornhuskers' starting quarterback. The job is Crouch's and Crouch's alone. No longer is he considered second-best at Nebraska.

He's the best in the Big 12, and one of the best in the country.

With all but one starter returning on his side of the ball, Crouch finds himself in position to thrive in the Huskers' multiple, option-based offense. Everything — team chemistry, most importantly — is set.

"Everyone knows his role on this team this year," Crouch said, "which really helps out as far as tension."

To say there was tension in the Nebraska program early last fall would be an understatement. The Newcombe-Crouch situation was ripe fodder for daily speculation, as was the controversy surrounding disgruntled I-back DeAngelo Evans (who was dismissed from the team), and both issues wore on Solich in his second season as head coach.

Crouch began the season backing up Newcombe, seeing significant playing time but not enough to say that the Huskers were truly rotating quarterbacks.

When Crouch was on the field at quarterback the first two games, against Iowa and California, it seemed as if the offense clicked. It quickly became evident that Crouch was superior at running the option. Newcombe, on the other hand, either played tentatively or he tried to force things, as if he were looking over his shoulder.

A full-blown quarterback controversy had started, and something had to give.

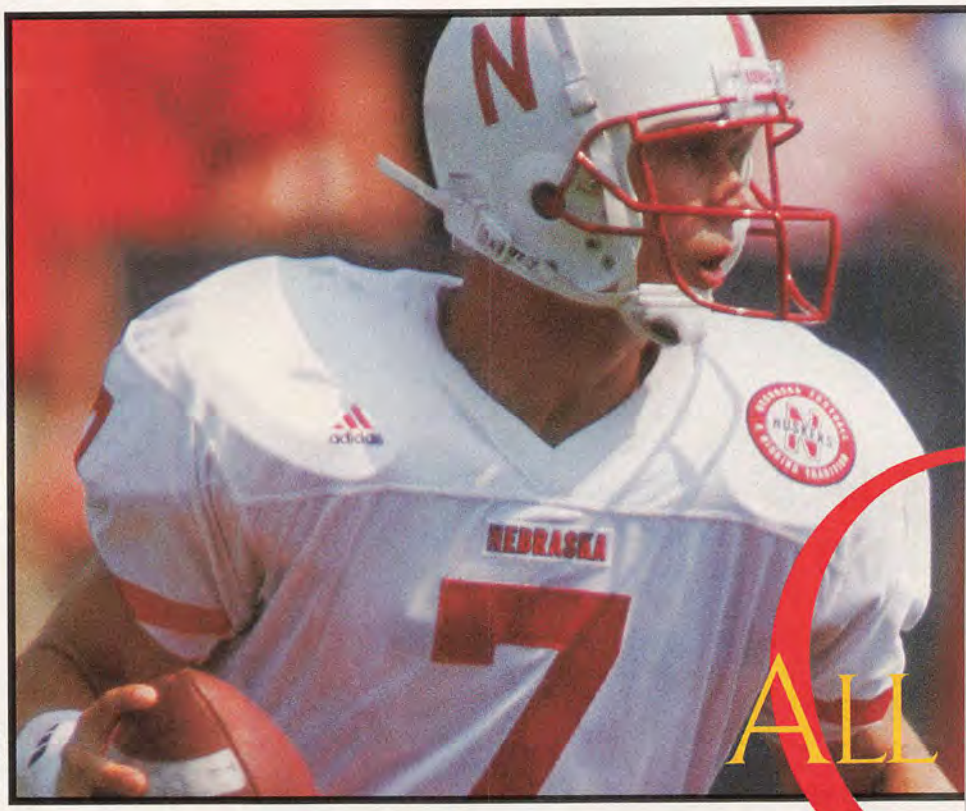
Before the third game, Newcombe approached Solich about switching to wingback. Solich obliged, willingly. Crouch was now the man.

And now Crouch is the man more than ever at quarterback, with Newcombe serving as the team's big-play guy at wingback.

"The big thing I had to tell myself was that I had to be patient and make opportunities when given the chance," Crouch said. "I went out against Iowa for a couple of series and made some great plays, plays that I'd see on the highlight reel all year. The same thing with the game against California. I had to make the best of it because I wasn't the starter at the time. It was a chance for me to go out and prove myself."

Crouch began building his case in the 42-7 win over Iowa by scoring three touchdowns after entering the game for the first time midway through the second quarter. On one of his runs, he flattened cornerback Mikkel Brown for one of the aforementioned highlight-reel plays.

In the following week's 45-0 win over California, Crouch ran for two touchdowns, passed for another … and even caught a 60-yard touchdown pass from Newcombe.



STEVE BEYER

When Crouch was named the starting quarterback for the Southern Mississippi game, the atmosphere around the team changed.

"When the quarterback controversy ended," said offensive lineman Russ Hochstein, "it lifted a lot of pressure off those guys. Then you got to see how good they could play — Eric at quarterback and Bobby at wingback — and people quit worrying about it."

Crouch struggled in his first start, a 20-13 victory over Southern Miss, but he seemed to get better each week.

He was at his best in the biggest games:

the Nebraska QB Job

BY ERIC OLSON

HIS OWN

• He passed for a career-high 204 yards in a 24-20 loss at Texas.

• He rushed for 137 yards and passed for 95 in a 37-0 shutout of Texas A&M.

• He ran for 158 yards in a 41-15 win over Kansas State.

• He ran for 123 yards, plus the game-winning touchdown run, in a 33-30 overtime win at Colorado.

The 6-1, 195-pounder out of Omaha's Millard North High School finished as the nation's No. 2 rushing quarterback (889 yards) and the national leader for rushing touchdowns by a quarterback (16). He threw only four interceptions while completing 83 of 160 passes (51.9 percent) for 1,269 yards.

"This year it's going to be a lot easier that first game, starting and knowing that it's a leadership role I'm going to be playing," Crouch said. "Last year, I felt as if I had to build myself into a leader."

Crouch quickly earned the respect of his teammates. A fierce competitor, Crouch is not one to shy from contact.

Remember the Kansas State game in 1998 when Wildcat linebacker Travis Ochs grabbed Crouch's facemask and completely twisted the quarterback's head around? There was no flag thrown, but Crouch popped right back up and continued to lead a Nebraska comeback attempt that fell short.

Hochstein recalled a number of other instances in which Crouch was hit so hard that the linemen could feel it.

"It says a lot to a lineman to know his quarterback is willing to take pain," Hochstein said. "He wants the ball, he wants to be around the ball and he loves the excitement and action of a game. You have to respect a guy who's willing to put it all out there. Even if you miss your block, he's still willing to pound it in there and get an extra yard or two."

That's not to say Crouch is indestructible. He received a medical hardship his first year on campus (1997) after having surgeries to remove bone spurs and to repair a torn posterior cruciate ligament in his left knee. As a redshirt freshman in 1998, when he was a backup to Newcombe, he missed one game with a hamstring pull and three more with a hip pointer.

Last season Crouch played with a sore right (throwing) shoulder. He underwent arthroscopic shoulder surgery after the 31-21 Fiesta Bowl win over Tennessee and had only limited contact in spring practice.

Crouch was bothered to varying degrees by the shoulder for most of last season.

"We still ran him," Solich said. "At times it irritated him, but never to the point where we felt he was in danger of not playing. When you ask as much of a quarterback as we do, there always is a concern that he might not come out 100-percent healthy. We once ran him 27 times (against K-State), and to hold up as well as he did was really great."

To protect his shoulder, Crouch saw only mild contact in spring practice, which was no major concern to Solich.

"Eric doesn't have to prove anything to us," said Solich, who used Crouch's limited availability as an opportunity to develop a backup quarterback.

That Crouch wasn't allowed to start on merit was one of the great mysteries early last season. Newcombe had quarterbacked the team at the start of the 1998 season and was outstanding. But he suffered a knee injury and was never the same, appearing in a total of only six games. Meanwhile, Crouch was among the quarterbacks who filled in while Newcombe was out.

Newcombe missed 1999 spring ball after having reconstructive knee surgery, returning in fall camp. Crouch appeared to perform better than Newcombe in the hotly contested quarterback race during preseason practices and scrimmages. Still, Newcombe was named the starter heading into the season, partly because of Solich's rule that says a player doesn't lose his position after coming back from an injury.

Crouch, after being told the news, drove back to Omaha to visit with his high school coach, and there were reports that Nebraska receivers coach Ron Brown, who recruited Crouch, tracked him down at Millard North.

The hot rumor was that Crouch had quit and that Brown followed Crouch to Omaha to talk him out of it.

Crouch insists that he never quit and only was seeking counsel when he went to visit his high school coach.

"I never thought about quitting at all," Crouch said. "I just thought about how I was going to be a participant on this team and what my role would be, as a quarterback or as a receiver or wherever the coaches were going to use me. I just wanted to be used."

Crouch said he knew his time would come.

"Everybody deals with adversity," he said. "The way I handled it was to take my frustration out and some of my emotions out on the field. A lot of times when I did that, good things happened."

Crouch still carries that emotion onto the field, even though his job as starting quarterback, for the first time, is safe.

"Experience has taught me that you can never be comfortable with your position," he said. "You have to play as if someone could take it away." ■

NOTRE DAME FIGHTING IRISH

Davie, Irish Face a Tough Task Early

Let's see, now. There's Jacksonville Jaguar coach Tom Coughlin, quoted as saying Notre Dame was his dream job. There's Texas Christian coach Dennis Franchione, one of the hot coaches with career rungs left to climb. There's Barry Alvarez, considered one of the best coaches in modern Big Ten history after leading Wisconsin to three Rose Bowl titles in the past decade. There's Florida's Steve Spurrier, rumored to have told a friend just how much he would love to coach at Notre Dame.

Then there's Oregon's Mike Bellotti, Navy's Charlie Weatherbie, Purdue's Joe Tiller, ABC-TV's Terry Bowden ... name an upwardly mobile coach and he has probably been the subject of a Notre Dame football coaching rumor since the end of last season.

Meanwhile, the man clinging tenuously to the job, Bob Davie, works through the whispers. A 5-7 record in 1999 gave Davie a 21-16 overall mark in three seasons under the Golden Dome, with two years remaining on his original deal and three left on the extension the university awarded him before last fall.

Check out the signs in the yards. One business owner in South Bend last fall put the words "Start Packin' Bob" in lights.

Check out the Internet. The truth's graveyard has been a favorite home for people whose full-time job seems to be finding reasons for Notre Dame to fire Davie.

But remember that Notre Dame reneges on its written contracts about as often as England changes queens, not that that will quell the speculation. Especially not after Notre Dame forced a resignation last winter on the man who hired Davie and gave him the contract extension — athletic director Michael Wadsworth.

The replacement, former Arizona State athletic director Kevin White, has maintained a public position of neutrality. But all Notre Dame fans remember that only 17 months after Wadsworth took over in 1995, Lou Holtz was mumbling something about leaving because it was the right thing to do. White started on the job last April. That would make Davie's possible departure November, 2001, if you have 17 months in the office pool.

Such rampant, unsubstantiated speculation permeates through the Notre Dame football program. Davie, a coach known for his easy-going manner and approachability when he took over for Holtz, has transformed into a man meticulous with every word.

He waited for several days before commenting on the light sanctions handed down last winter by the NCAA. He did not comment on Wadsworth's departure until several days later. He chose not to attend the press conference announcing White's hiring because he said he didn't want to be a distraction.

Understand that when a Notre Dame football coach says he prefers paper to plastic at the grocery store, it's news in South Bend.

So imagine the local outcry last spring, when Davie not only closed spring practices to the media, but also banned his players from talking at all to reporters. And this was April, five months from the Sept. 2 season opener against Texas A & M.

The famous tunnel leading out of the Notre Dame locker room has become a path to a bunker out of which Davie's thoughts seem to originate. That mentality makes the most cynical fans wonder if Davie's fear of making a public misstep will translate into his game plans.

It's a fair question, but they're all fair questions after a disastrous 5-7 season that began with all the coincidental correlations between third-year Irish coaches Ara Parseghian, Dan Devine and Lou Holtz and national championships in '66, '77, '88 ...

Everybody forgot to mention what happened to Terry Brennan (2-8), Joe Kuharich (5-5) and Gerry Faust (7-5) in their third seasons.

As this season begins, Davie is like the guy washing windows on the outside of the Empire State Building. If he allows

at a glance

FIGHTING IRISH

1999: 5-7 Overall

COACH: Bob Davie — At Notre Dame and Overall: 21-16, 3 years

RETURNING STARTERS: 13; 7 Offense, 5 Defense, Punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH: TB Julius Jones, QB Arnaz Battle, S Tony Driver, K Nick Setta, DE Grant Irons

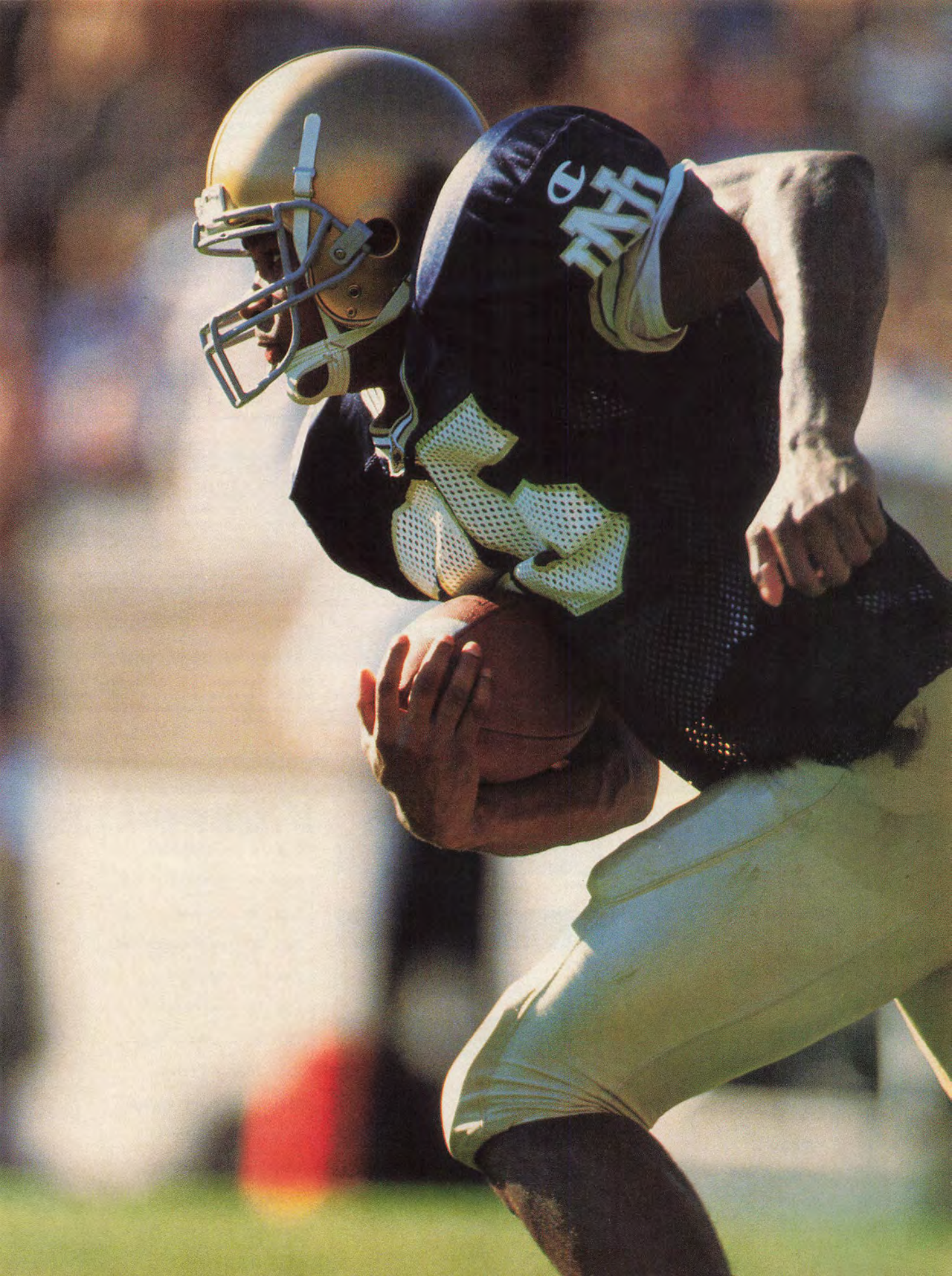
PRIMARY STRENGTHS: Four offensive line starters necessitate return to power football. Receiving corps is deep and talented. Defensive strength lies in pass-rushing potential of Irons and Tony Weaver.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: Secondary remains untested and weak at cornerback. A new kicker, Setta, has promise if not experience. Schedule is a killer, especially early.

OVERVIEW: With a new quarterback and a suspect secondary, it seems unrealistic to expect too many big things. If they start 4-1, expect a New Year's Day bowl. Davie needs at least eight victories to stave off people clamoring for his job. And that may not even do it.

SENIOR STRONG SAFETY TONY DRIVER, WHO STARTED AT SAFETY AS A SOPHOMORE BUT SWITCHED TO TAILBACK LAST YEAR, MISSED MOST OF LAST SEASON AFTER VIOLATING UNIVERSITY RULES REGARDING CURFEW.

PHOTO BY JOHN WILLIAMSON



FIGHTING IRISH RECRUITING

Name / Position	Size	Hometown	High School / College
BIBLE, Garron RB	5-10, 185	Kingwood, TX	Kingwood
Dallas Morning News Top 100 ◆ District Offensive Most Valuable Player ◆ As a senior, had 1,516 yards rushing and 18 touchdowns on 220 carries ◆ Had 10 receptions for 145 yards and one touchdown.			
BUDINSCAK, Kyle DL	6-5, 250	Bridgewater, NJ	Raritan
All-County ◆ County Defensive Player of the Year ◆ Had 69 tackles, 10 quarterback sacks, seven quarterback hurries, one fumble recovered and one blocked kick as a senior ◆ Had 11 receptions for 185 yards and one touchdown as a tight end.			
CLARK, Jared QB	6-4, 220	Sarasota, FL	Cardinal Mooney
Atlanta Journal Constitution Super Southern 100 ◆ Rated No. 62 player nationally by *Chicago Sun-Times* ◆ As a senior, completed 89 of 151 passes for 1,372 yards and 17 touchdowns ◆ Had 741 yards rushing and 10 touchdowns on 109 carries ◆ Had 10 tackles, three quarterback sacks, one fumble caused and one fumble recovered			
COLLINS, Jerome WR	6-4, 200	Warrenville, IL	Wheaton-Warrenville S.
Detroit Free Press Best of the Midwest ◆ All-State ◆ Three-year starter ◆ Had 35 receptions for 450 yards and five touchdowns as a senior ◆ Returned a kickoff 93 yards for a touchdown ◆ Returned a punt 63 yards for a touchdown ◆ Had 40 tackles, four quarterback sacks and six tackles for loss in last four games at outside linebacker.			
CRAWFORD, Lorenzo WR	5-11, 175	Prospect Park, NJ	Paterson Catholic
USA Today honorable mention All-American ◆ All-State ◆ County Offensive Player of the Year ◆ As a senior, had 37 receptions for 858 yards and 14 touchdowns ◆ Had 362 yards rushing and six touchdowns ◆ Returned four kicks for touchdowns ◆ Member of basketball, track and swimming teams.			
CURRY, Derek LB	6-4, 225	Sealy, TX	Sealy
USA Today honorable mention All-American ◆ *Dallas Morning News* and *Houston Chronicle* Top 100 ◆ District Defensive Most Valuable Player ◆ Helped team to state championship game ◆ Three-year starter.			
DUFF, Vontez RB	6-1, 175	Copperas Cove, TX	Copperas Cove
The Sporting News ranked No. 12 player nationally ◆ *Chicago Sun-Times* rated No. 61 player nationally ◆ *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* and *Dallas Morning News* Top 100 ◆ As a senior, had 1,145 yards rushing and 12 touchdowns ◆ Returned two punts for touchdowns ◆ Threw two touchdown passes out of the backfield.			
ELAM, Abram QB/DB	6-1, 190	Riviera Beach, FL	Cardinal Newman
Had 18 tackles on defense as a senior ◆ Had 900 yards passing and 13 touchdowns ◆ Had 500 yards rushing and 12 touchdowns ◆ Member of basketball team.			
GOOLSBY, Mike LB	6-4, 225	Joliet, IL	Catholic
Parade All-American ◆ *USA Today* second-team All-American ◆ *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* and *Dallas Morning News* Top 100 ◆ Gatorade Illinois Player of the Year ◆ Two-time All-State ◆ Helped team to state championship ◆ As a senior, had 74 tackles, including 64 solo, 13 quarterback sacks, 22 tackles for loss, eight fumbles caused and four fumbles recovered ◆ Had 100 tackles and nine quarterback sacks as a junior			

Name / Position	Size	Hometown	High School / College
HOLIDAY, Carlyle QB	6-2, 190	San Antonio, TX	Roosevelt
Dallas Morning News and *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* Top 100 ◆ Had 719 yards passing as a senior ◆ Had 876 yards rushing and 13 touchdowns on 100 carries ◆ Four-sport letterman.			
JACKSON, Preston DB	5-10, 172	Brandon, FL	Tampa Hillsborough
Helped team to regional championship game ◆ As a senior, had 57 tackles and five interceptions ◆ Returned one punt and one kickoff for touchdowns ◆ Had 41 tackles, seven interceptions and 15 passes broken up as a junior ◆ Started at point guard for basketball team.			
JENKINS, Omar WR	6-2, 180	Dallas, TX	Jesuit
Fort Worth Star-Telegram and *Dallas Morning News* Top 100 ◆ All-State ◆ League Most Valuable Player ◆ Had 45 receptions for 811 yards and nine touchdowns as a senior.			
LOVECCHIO, Matt QB	6-3, 200	Franklin Lakes, NJ	Bergen Catholic
USA Today honorable mention All-American ◆ *Dallas Morning News* and *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* Top 100 ◆ Rated No. 2 player in New Jersey by *Newark Star-Ledger* ◆ All-State ◆ Led team to state championship ◆ As a senior, completed 94 of 160 passes for 1,503 yards and 17 touchdowns ◆ Had 302 yards rushing and two touchdowns ◆ Had 3,400 career passing yards and 48 touchdowns ◆ Started for basketball team.			
PALMER, Billy TE	6-3, 250	Wyntree Heathrow, FL	Lake Highland Prep
Had eight receptions, including one for a touchdown, as a senior ◆ Had 50 tackles at defensive end ◆ Standout rugby player.			
PAULY, Greg DL	6-6, 275	Waukesha, WI	South
Parade All-American ◆ *USA Today* All-American ◆ Ranked No. 69 player nationally by *The Sporting News* ◆ *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* and *Dallas Morning News* Top 100 ◆ *Detroit Free Press* Best of the Midwest ◆ Wisconsin Defensive Player of the Year ◆ Two-time All-State ◆ Offensive and defensive starter since freshman season ◆ As a senior, had 40 solo tackles, 65 assists, 17 quarterback sacks, 20 tackles for loss, two interceptions and two fumbles recovered ◆ Set school record with 31 career quarterback sacks ◆ Three-year starter on basketball team.			
RODAMER, Ronnie WR	6-4, 185	Morgantown, WV	Morgantown
USA Today honorable mention All-American ◆ Gatorade West Virginia Player of the Year ◆ All-State ◆ Had 35 receptions for 660 yards and 15 touchdowns as a senior ◆ Had 30 tackles and three interceptions at free safety ◆ As a junior, had 38 receptions for 961 yards and nine touchdowns.			
SAPP, Jason LB	6-3, 230	Bridgeport, CT	Notre Dame
USA Today honorable mention All-American ◆ All-State ◆ As a senior, had 92 tackles, eight quarterback sacks and three interceptions at linebacker ◆ Had 28 receptions for 389 yards and three touchdowns at tight end.			
WITHERSPOON, Jovan WR	6-4, 205	Fort Wayne	Bishop Luers
Detroit Free Press honorable mention Best of the Midwest ◆ All-State ◆ Helped team to state championship ◆ Had 69 receptions for 1,140 yards and 11 touchdowns as a senior ◆ Led Indiana in interceptions with nine ◆ Returned six kicks for touchdowns, but had five called back for penalties.			

A LOOK AT THE FIGHTING IRISH

RESULTS

(5-7)

48	Kansas	13
22	Michigan	26
23	Purdue	28
13	Michigan State	23
34	Oklahoma	30
48	Arizona State	17
25	Southern California	24
28	Navy	24
14	Tennessee	38
27	Pittsburgh	37
29	Boston College	31
37	Stanford	40

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING

Name	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int
Jackson	316	184	2753	58.2	17	14
Battle	15	7	84	46.7	0	1

RUSHING

Name	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD
Fisher	156	783	5.0	55	5
Jackson	140	464	38.7	57	7
Jones	75	375	31.3	37	3
Driver	49	187	26.7	14	4

RECEIVING

Name	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD
Brown	36	608	16.9	42	5
Getherall	35	436	12.5	58	3
Nelson	23	395	17.2	45	0
Fisher	18	297	16.4	47	2

DEFENSIVE LEADERS

Tackles: Sanders 91; Denman 89; Jefferson 77; Cooper 70.
Interceptions: Harper 4; Sanders 3; Cooper 2.
QB Sacks: Bryant 4; Irons 4; Boiman 2; Wisne 2.
Tackles For Loss: Sanders 10; Denman 9; Byrant 6; Harper 4.

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2	Texas A&M
Sept. 9	Nebraska
Sept. 16	Purdue
Sept. 23	at Michigan State
Oct. 7	Stanford
Oct. 14	vs. Navy*
Oct. 21	at West Virginia
Oct. 28	Air Force
Nov. 11	Boston College
Nov. 18	at Rutgers
Nov. 25	at USC

*Citrus Bowl, Orlando, FL

himself to realize how far he has to fall, he's in trouble. So he just won't look down.

"I remember when Lou was here," Davie says. "I remember Lou going through the same thing. His record was a lot better than mine, but it was always: 'Who's going to be the next head coach at Notre Dame?' When you coach at a place like this, that's going to be part of it.

"You don't focus on that stuff. I try to control the things I can control. There's no question there's a little bit of a bunker mentality. You can't read the newspaper; you can't subject yourself to what's being said on the outside.

"Everyone's human. If you hear things, it's going to affect you. But if you get caught up in everything that is being said about you, you're being selfish to the players and the coaches in this program.

"If you do, you're going to be in the tank all the time. You won't be able to control the situation. If you really have a big ego and all you care about is yourself, you probably pay more attention to those outside factors."

The first job that looks more like a career for Davie is fixing the Notre Dame defense. The four-game Irish disintegration last November — losses to Tennessee, Pittsburgh, Boston College and Stanford — began when the Notre Dame defense dissolved like a sugar cube in a cup of coffee. Those four teams averaged 37 points a game, primarily by picking apart the Irish secondary.

"Our No. 1 priority, without a doubt, is improving our defense," Davie says.

But how? The same defensive coordinator since Davie took over, Greg Mattison, still will call the shots. The same 4-3 scheme will remain in place. Many of the same players return. So?

"We spent every second since the end of last season looking at what we did scheme-wise, personnel-wise, technique-wise," Davie explains. "I would say it was a matter not of what we did but how we did it. At the end of the season, we really had a difficult time tackling. We had a difficult time in our techniques as far as man-to-man coverage in the secondary. Everything will be more geared toward the execution and the accountability of our players toward each other."

Ironically, Davie will count on two players who learned a lot about accountability last season to correct the problem. Senior strong safety Tony Driver, who started at safety as a sophomore but switched to tailback last year, missed most of last season after violating university rules regarding curfew. Cornerback Brock Williams missed all of last season due to a similar violation. Both expect to start in a secondary that should include cornerback Clifford Jefferson and promising free safety Gerome Sapp.

Their challenge: Shore up a unit that ranked 82nd in the country last year, giving up an average of 241 yards a game.

"When you give up a lot of big plays on defense, it's hard to just maintain that passion," Davie says.

The secondary may improve its precision quicker, of course, if the defensive front seven supplies more passion. Nothing makes a cornerback cover better than a good pass rush, a fact returning linemen Grant Irons and Tony Weaver know all too well.

Those two potential all-star candidates may see plenty of double-teaming, opening up the rush lanes for guys like tackle Lance Legree, end Darrell Campbell and possibly incoming freshman end Greg Pauly, a player expected to make an immediate impact.

The linebackers figure to include the underrated Anthony Denman, junior Rocky Boiman and probably Tyreo Harrison or Carlos Pierre-Antoine, making the Irish long on speed, but short on size. But in Davie's ideal defense, only the size of the collision matters.

NOTRE DAME HAS GREAT BACKFIELD DEPTH, INCLUDING TONY FISHER WHO STARTED MOST OF LAST SEASON.

PHOTO BY JOHN WILLIAMSON

"If you break our defense down, it's going to start with pass defense," Davie says. "I'm much more optimistic, probably since I've been at Notre Dame, in the athleticism we have in the secondary and throughout the defense."

That athleticism on defense may have to carry the Irish while new quarterback Arnaz Battle gets used to taking snaps while the rest of the college football world presses its nose to the glass. Battle takes over for Jarious Jackson and, besides the defensive secondary that worries Davie, represents the biggest unknown concerning the football season.

If games were won Monday through Thursday, then Notre Dame would be unbeaten and Battle would be an All-American. But the quarterback who makes coaches rave in practice has yet to do anything in a game good enough to erase memories of a terrible outing against USC in place of the injured Jackson at the end of the '98 season.

"Whether you call it decision-making or just the mechanics or releasing the ball quickly, that's something we've constantly worked on with him since his freshman year," Davie says. "I think he's improved on that."

NOTRE DAME

FIGHTING IRISH SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Class	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown
82	Bernard Akatu	SE	Jr	5-10	180	Lagos, Nigeria
71	Neil Ambron	OT	So	6-7	295	Littleton, CO
3	Arnaz Battle	QB	Jr	6-1	218	Shreveport, LA
27	Jason Beckstrom	CB	So	5-10	190	Tulsa, OK
78	Jordan Black	OT	Jr	6-6	310	Rowlett, TX
30	Rocky Boiman	OLB	Jr	6-4	240	Cincinnati, OH
43	Anthony Brannan	ILB	Sr	5-10	215	Cedar Grove, NJ
60	Darrell Campbell	DE	So	6-4	275	South Holland, IL
56	John Crowther	C	Jr	6-2	240	Edina, MN
63	Brennan Curtin	OT	So	6-8	310	Palm Beach, FL
96	Chad DeBolt	CB	Jr	5-10	193	Waterloo, NY
91	Andrew Dempsey	DE	Sr	6-2	265	Los Angeles, CA
59	Brian Dierckman	ILB	Sr	6-1	255	Fort Wayne
39	Anthony Denman	ILB	Sr	6-2	235	Rusk, TX
28	Donald Dykes	SS	Jr	5-11	195	Hammond, LA
25	Tony Driver	FS	Sr	6-2	215	Louisville, KY
19	Glen Earl	SS	So	6-2	205	Lisle, IL
52	Jeff Faine	C	So	6-3	292	Sanford, FL
12	Tony Fisher	TB	Jr	6-2	225	Euclid, OH
9	Dwayne Francis	CB	Jr	6-0	195	Houston, TX
69	Mike Gandy	OG	Sr	6-4	315	Garland, TX
83	Josh Gentile	K/P	So	5-11	199	Plymouth, WI
18	Joey Getherall	FL	Sr	5-7	175	Hacienda Hghts, CA
67	Ryan Gillis	OG	So	6-3	292	Bowie, MD
6	David Givens	FL	Jr	6-3	217	Humble, TX
14	Gary Godsey	QB	So	6-7	240	Tampa, FL
51	Tyreo Harrison	ILB	Jr	6-2	242	Sulphur Springs, TX
17	Joey Hildbold	P	So	5-10	190	Centreville, VA
50	Cedric Hilliard	NG	So	6-2	295	Arlington, TX
87	Jabari Holloway	TE	Sr	6-3	260	Riverdale, GA
32	Terrance Howard	TB	Jr	6-1	195	Willingboro, NJ
21	Javin Hunter	SE	Jr	6-0	186	Orchard Lake, MI
44	Grant Irons	DE	Sr	6-5	275	The Woodlands, TX
5	Ron Isreal	SS	Sr	6-0	208	Lawnside, NJ
15	Clifford Jefferson	CB	Jr	5-9	180	Dallas, TX
11	Jay Johnson	SE	Sr	5-11	191	Starkville, MS
55	Jim Jones	OG	Sr	6-2	310	Chicago Ridge, IL
22	Julius Jones	TB	So	5-10	201	Big Stone Gap, VA
66	J.W. Jordan	C	Sr	6-1	275	Brooklyn, NY
46	Jeremy Juarez	FB	Sr	5-11	251	Arcadia, CA
10	Ryan Krueger	QB	Jr	5-9	178	South Bend
90	Lance Legree	DT	Sr	6-1	285	St. Stephen, SC
36	Tom Lopienski	FB	Jr	6-1	245	Hudson, OH
79	Sean Mahan	OT	Jr	6-3	288	Tulsa, OK
47	Mike McNair	FB	Jr	6-0	240	Corona del Mar, CA
35	David Miller	K	Jr	5-11	191	Granger
65	Sean Milligan	OG	So	6-4	295	Norcross, GA
52	Mark Mitchell	OLB	Sr	5-10	220	Memphis, TN
70	Jim Molinaro	DE	So	6-6	240	Bethlehem, PA
89	Gerald Morgan	TE	Jr	6-4	261	Mesquite, TX
74	Rob Mowl	OG	Sr	6-4	300	Pittsburgh, PA
40	Jason Murray	FB	Sr	6-1	259	Belle Vernon, PA
2	Dan Novakov	QB	So	6-1	220	Dallas, TX
86	Dan O'Leary	TE	Sr	6-3	260	Westlake, OH
29	Brian Oleniczak	FL	Sr	5-11	195	Grand Rapids, MI
35	Tim O'Neill	TB	Jr	5-5	170	Troy, MI
84	John Owens	DE	Jr	6-3	255	Bowie, MD
2	Carlos Pierre-Antoine	ILB	Jr	6-3	242	Everett, WA
24	Albert Poree	CB	So	5-10	191	New Orleans, LA
54	Luigi Rao	ILB	Sr	5-10	215	Monterey Pary, CA
10	Joe Recendez	QB/TE	Sr	6-0	222	South Holland, IL
95	Ryan Roberts	DE	Jr	6-2	251	Lawnside, NJ
62	Casey Robin	OT	Sr	6-7	305	Covington, LA
56	Pat Ryan	ILB	So	6-3	235	Billings, MT
20	Gerome Sapp	FS	So	6-0	212	Houston, TX
45	Matt Sarb	SS	Jr	5-11	201	Lisle, IL
72	Ryan Scarola	OG	Jr	6-5	301	Export, PA
93	B.J. Scott	DT	Sr	6-3	290	Brookville
13	Nick Setta	K/P	So	5-11	175	Lockport, IL
29	Justin Smith	FS	Sr	5-11	193	St. Petersburg, FL
4	Jamaar Taylor	FL	So	6-1	205	Mission, TX
76	John Teasdale	OT	Sr	6-5	305	Kansas City, MO
57	Justin Thomas	OLB	So	6-1	245	Spencer, OK
92	Adam Tibble	K	Jr	5-11	201	Northville, MI
75	Kurt Vollers	OT	Sr	6-7	310	Whittier, CA
34	Jacint Vukelich	FB	Sr	5-10	229	Cranberry Tship, PA
42	Shane Walton	CB	Jr	5-11	183	San Diego, CA
33	Courtney Watson	ILB	So	6-1	220	Sarasota, FL
98	Anthony Weaver	DT	Jr	6-3	276	Saratoga Spngs, NY
1	Brock Williams	CB	Sr	5-10	190	Hammond, LA
94	Andy Wisne	DT	Sr	6-3	272	Tulsa, OK
23	Chris Yura	FB	So	5-11	211	Morgantown, WV
61	Mike Zelenka	FB	Sr	6-0	225	Berea, OH

Roster and depth chart subject to change.

2000 PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Arnaz Battle, Jr/Gary Godsey, So
TB	Julius Jones, So/Tony Fisher, Jr*
FB	Tom Lopienski, Jr/Mike McNair, Jr
WR	Javin Hunter, Jr/Jay Johnson, Sr
WR	Joey Getherall, Sr*/David Givens, Jr
LT	Jordan Black, Sr/Neal Ambron, So
LG	Jim Jones, Sr/Sean Mahan, Jr
C	Jeff Faine, So/Ryan Gillis, So
RG	Mike Gandy, Sr*/Rob Mowl, Sr
RT	John Teasdale, Sr*/Kurt Vollers, Sr
TE	Jabari Holloway, Sr*/Dan O'Leary, Sr
PK	Nick Setta, So/David Miller Jr

DEFENSE	
LE	Darrell Campbell, So/Jim Molinaro, So
NT	Lance Legree, Sr /B.J. Scott, Sr
DT	Anthony Weaver, Jr */Andy Wisne, Sr
RE	Grant Irons, Sr */Ryan Roberts, Jr
ILB	Anthony Denman, Sr*/Carlos Pierre-Antoine, Jr
ILB	Tyreo Harrison, Jr/Greg Pauley, Fr
OLB	Rocky Boiman, Jr*/Justin Thomas, So
CB	Cliff Jefferson, Jr*/Shane Walton, Jr
CB	Brock Williams, Sr/Albert Poree, So
FS	Tony Driver, Sr/Justin Smith, Sr
SS	Gerome Sapp, So/Ron Israel, Sr
P	Joey Hildbold, So*/Nick Setta, So

SPRING UPDATE

If junior cornerback Shane Walton, one of spring's biggest surprises, played with more passion, it was because he found more purpose.

The hard way.

Walton, who came to Notre Dame on a soccer scholarship but began playing football exclusively last fall, struggled with the sudden death of longtime Irish soccer coach Mike Berticelli. The loss of the popular coach changed many lives in South Bend, none more than Walton's.

"Everything I do now is dedicated to coach Berticelli," said Walton, a backup cornerback. "When I can't motivate myself any more, I think of him and I do it for him."

At Notre Dame, Berticelli filled a void that had long been vacant for Walton.

"I didn't have a father while I was growing up," the San Diego native said. "Coach Berticelli came into my home and became my father-figure. He promised my mother he would take care of me and he did.

"Even when I decided to play football, the relationship never changed. When I'd stop in his office, he'd start teaching me football stuff. He cared about me as a person, not a soccer player."

• Sophomore Nick Setta, nagged by a sprained ankle all spring, performed well enough to earn a look at punter in addition to placekicker. The battle will be between Setta and returning starter Joey Hildbold at punter.

• Injuries kept projected offensive line starters Kurt Vollers (sprained neck) and Jim Jones (sprained knee) out of spring ball. Both are expected back this fall.

• Trying to improve athleticism at linebacker, coaches looked at junior Carlos Pierre-Antoine next to big-play senior Anthony Denman. Pierre-Antoine relished the chance. "I just want to be more crisp, make the big plays and play like (Denman)," Pierre-Antoine said.

• After much juggling, coach Bob Davie settled on Tony Driver at free safety and moved promising sophomore Gerome Sapp to strong safety. Those two players immediately upgrade the athletic ability of a Notre Dame secondary that got scorched last season.

— David Haugh

WWW.FOOTBALLNETWORK.COM

FREE FANTASY FREE FANTASY

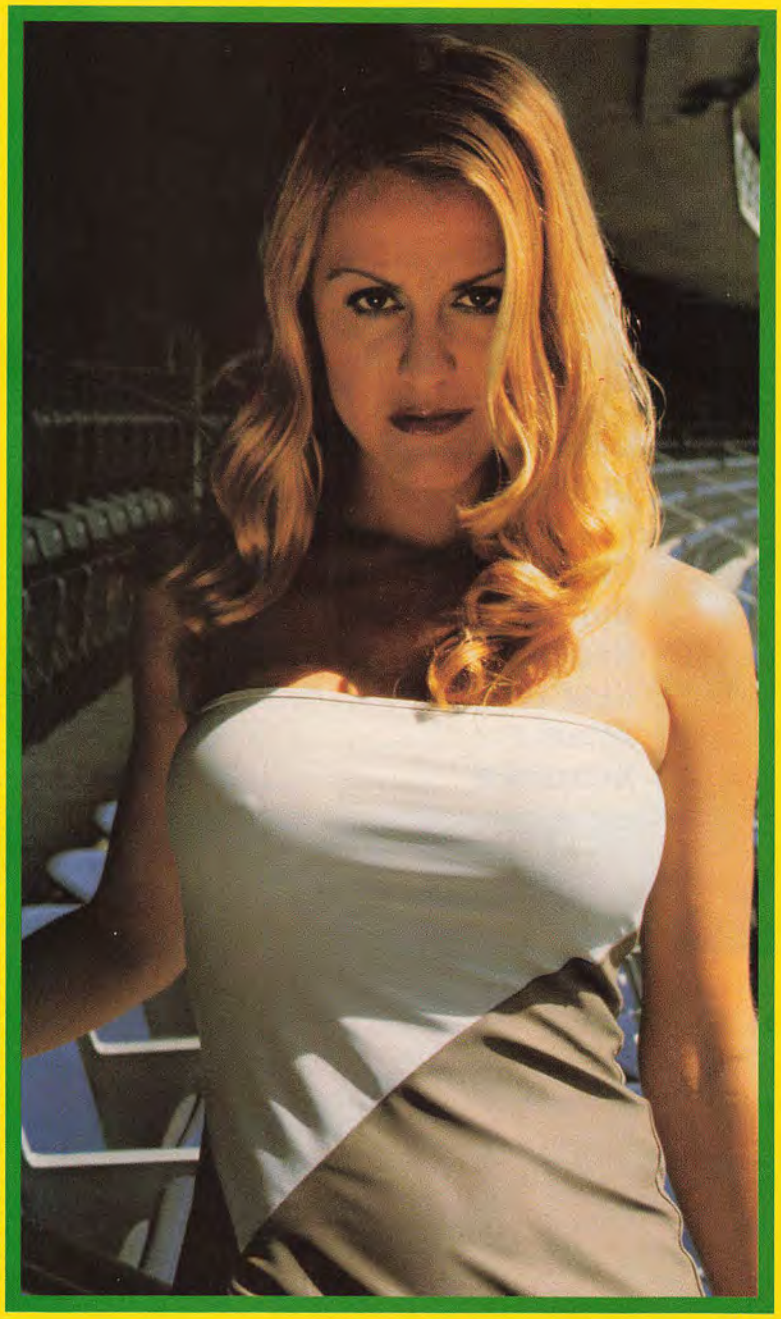


Photo courtesy of benvil/Styled by Tawny White for TFN/Graphic design by Headline Graphics

If you would like to see more of Miss TFN 2000, Brandi Drawe, order her calendar on-line at www.footballnetwork.com

FREE FANTASY FOOTBALL THAT IS!

TFN

the Footballnetwork®

$1,000,000 Fantasy Football Challenge

Enter On-Line At
www.footballnetwork.com

Your guide to a successful fantasy season

PRIZES

★ A chance for 1 million dollars weekly

★ VIP trips to TFN network launch party in Hollywood, CA

★ Cash prizes

★ Trips to regular season and playoff games

★ Trips to Super Bowl 2001

★ Autographed football items

★ Football memorabilia

TFN, The Football Network®
646 N. Beachwood Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90004, 888-404-TDTV
Stock Symbol: TFNK

Finally!

Everything you need to know about FOOTBALL, at a touch of a button.

And it's FREE!

1 **FOOTBALL SCORES**
Available All Day & Night on Saturday.

3 **NORTHCOAST SPORTSLINE PLAYS OF THE WEEK**
Four plays of the week.
Every week . . . Absolutely Free!

5 **LINE UPDATES, INJURY REPORTS**
Updated daily from 6 Las Vegas Casinos.
A complete injury report every day - Weather on Sat.

7 **THE FAMOUS PHIL STEELE'S TRENDS & NOTES!**
Selected angles, system of the week, MAJOR MOVES & more!

9 **GUEST HANDICAPPERS!**
Get free plays from some of the nation's top handicappers. A new selection each and every day!

Cleveland	216-228-2777
Las Vegas	702-736-9300
Chicago	847-963-0010
Dallas	972-988-6898
Honolulu	808-949-5147
New Jersey	973-325-8335
Atlanta	770-736-7050
Nebraska	402-891-0123

3 Free Issues of the Power Sweep Newsletter. ($21 Value)

ABSOLUTELY NO SALES PRESSURE

Call 1-800-654-3448

and mention this ad from Lindy's Annual Football Magazine

CHOOSE WHAT YOU WANT TO HEAR!

ALSO TRY OUR LOCAL FREE LINES - THE SAME PLAYS THAT ARE ON BUTTON #9 EVERYDAY!

D.C.	202-728-7542
Seattle	206-781-5858
San Antonio	210-690-7771
New York	212-631-1038
Philadelphia	215-602-2219
Detroit	248-358-7348
Denver	303-607-7521
Miami	305-460-5784
Beverly Hills	310-288-6583
St. Louis	314-995-9243
Indianapolis	317-578-5436
Hollywood	323-871-5829
Oklahoma	405-945-2946
Orlando	407-245-7324
San Jose	408-236-3316
Baltimore	410-385-9537
Pittsburgh	412-734-5348
Milwaukee	414-256-1394
San Fran	415-267-5936

Louisville	502-569-1832
Portland	503-727-2624
New Orleans	504-364-4409
Oakland	510-464-5973
Cincinnati	513-557-2184
Phoenix	602-351-8619
Columbus	614-341-7298
Nashville	615-780-3721
Boston	617-499-1916
Minneapolis	651-969-2638
Alexandria	703-912-1606
Charlotte	704-559-4157
Houston	713-867-5918
Santa Ana	714-648-2148
Staten Island	718-390-7296
Tampa	727-824-7746
Salt Lake City	801-461-9062
St. Pete	813-273-8165
Kansas City	816-374-5937

Encino	818-377-4537
San Diego	858-496-3352
Hartford	860-586-1169
Jacksonville	904-858-3373
Riverside	909-424-3432
Sacramento	916-484-5681
Ft. Laud.	954-537-3417

If you do not live in one of the 52 cities listed, you can use our Toll Free Comp Line

1-800-475-8168

If you get a busy signal when you call this number, you may live in a city with one of our local or full service lines. Please check the area codes on this page.

NOTRE DAME

Battle Feels He's the Best QB for the Irish

Bob Davie signing four quarterbacks to challenge inexperienced starter Arnaz Battle was like a guest bringing pizza to a friend's dinner party.

It hardly shows confidence in the host.

The host in this case is Battle, who lacks the credentials to earn the benefit of the doubt in Davie's mind. Even Battle understands that.

"I can't knock Coach Davie or any of the coaches for that," the sophomore says. "You just can't hand a position to anyone. Any position on the team is open. But I can't worry about the pressure."

Battle practiced what he preached during spring drills that impressed Davie. The fourth-year Notre Dame coach knew Battle could run the option, but he found out a little more about how he could run the team.

"In his overall command and presence, you see improvement," Davie says. "It's like any time guys are destined to be backups in their mind, they take on a certain personality. When it's their opportunity to be the starter, you see another personality."

The Irish will need all of Battle's personality and versatility to survive a difficult early season schedule.

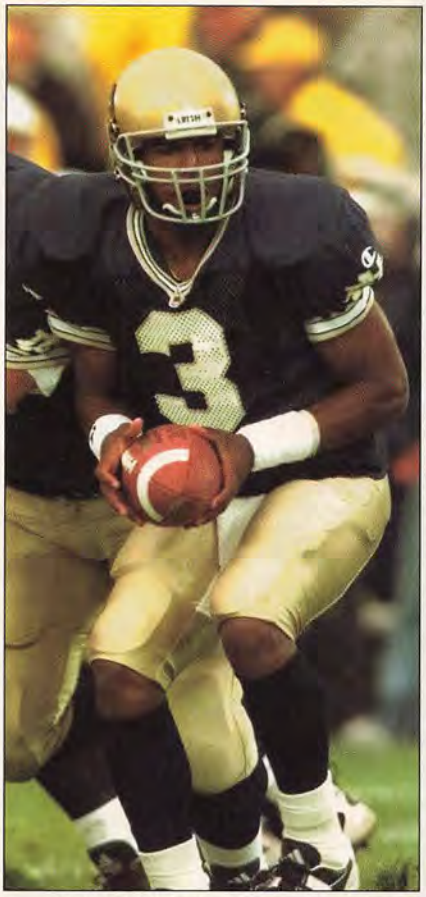
The 6-1, 218-pounder, whose claim to fame so far is a 74-yard TD jaunt against Kansas in a cameo appearance last season, believes in his ability to get the Irish to midterms unscathed.

"I'm capable," he says. "People might doubt me, but I know I'm capable. It takes a quarterback a while to get a rhythm, and I've never had an opportunity to get into that rhythm. All I need is the reps."

If he gets those reps, he might lose his rep as a runner who can't throw, and as the guy keeping the seat warm for incoming freshman Carlyle Holiday.

"I'm not worried about them competing with me," Battle says of Holiday and three other freshmen. "Right now, I have to worry about getting myself right. Competition is what makes good teams great. All competition does is push me to another level."

Notre Dame coaches hope Battle can do the same for the Irish. ❑



THE IRISH WILL NEED ALL OF BATTLE'S PERSONALITY AND VERSATILITY TO SURVIVE A DIFFICULT EARLY SEASON SCHEDULE.

PHOTO BY JOE RAYMOND / SOUTH BEND TRIBUNE

Of course, the best Notre Dame quarterbacks in recent memory (Jackson, Kevin McDougal, Tony Rice) have done as much damage with their legs as their arms. But it does not matter how effective Battle runs the option if his blockers do not make room.

Davie expects improved consistency from an offensive line that returns all but one starter: tackles Jordan Black and John Teasdale, as well as guards Jim Jones and Mike Gandy and tight end Jabari Holloway. The only newcomer, sophomore center Jeff Faine, has been projected as a future All-American.

That's good news for a Notre Dame backfield that has enough depth to justify using a full-house set. Sophomore Julius Jones has shown bursts of brilliance, junior Tony Fisher started most of last season and junior Terrance Howard catches the ball out of the backfield well enough to give the Irish a third-down threat. Jones likely will start, but all will play.

At fullback, Tom Lopienski looks like a guard wearing No. 36, but can outrun most linebackers. The same is true for Mike McNair, who Davie swears finally will approach the potential he continues to chase.

> **"IT'S A SENSE OF URGENCY ON ALL OF OUR PARTS. ALL OF OUR PRIDE — PLAYERS, COACHES, EVERYONE'S PRIDE — HAS TAKEN A LICKING."**

Speaking of potential, Notre Dame coaches practically drool when scanning the depth chart at wide receiver. Holdovers Joey Getherall, Javin Hunter, Jay Johnson and David Givens will receive pushes from freshmen Jovan Witherspoon, Ron Rodamer and Lorenzo Crawford to give Davie perhaps the team's deepest position group.

With a schedule that begins with five straight games against bowl teams Texas A&M, Nebraska, Purdue, Michigan State and Stanford, Davie knows he has no time for potential. Potential, as they say, gets coaches fired. Production helps them finish their contracts.

"Looking at it as a fan, it's reality; we were 5-7," Davie says. "But looking at it internally, when you break it down, you see clearly what the reasons were that made you 5-7. It's not as negative internally as it is externally.

"It's a sense of urgency on all of our parts. All of our pride — players, coaches, everyone's pride — has taken a licking. The only way you're going to feel better about yourself is to go win. In this profession, the bottom line is: What was your record?"

Wherever he turns on campus, Davie only gets reminded of that, oh, every day since last November.

— David Haugh

National Schedules

Holiday Inn®
HOTELS · RESORTS
1-800-HOLIDAY

ACC

CLEMSON
Sept. 2 The Citadel
Sept. 9 Missouri
Sept. 16 Wake Forest
Sept. 23 at Virginia
Sept. 30 at Duke
Oct. 7 N.C. State
Oct. 14 Maryland
Oct. 21 at North Carolina
Oct. 28 Georgia Tech
Nov. 4 at Florida State
Nov. 18 South Carolina

DUKE
Sept. 2 East Carolina
Sept. 9 at Northwestern
Sept. 16 Virginia
Sept. 23 at Vanderbilt
Sept. 30 Clemson
Oct. 14 at Florida State
Oct. 21 at Georgia Tech
Oct. 28 Maryland
Nov. 4 at Wake Forest
Nov. 11 at N.C. State
Nov. 18 North Carolina

FLORIDA STATE
Aug. 26 vs. BYU*
Sept. 9 at Georgia Tech
Sept. 16 North Carolina
Sept. 23 Louisville
Sept. 28 at Maryland
Oct. 7 at Miami
Oct. 14 Duke
Oct. 21 Virginia
Oct. 28 at N.C. State
Nov. 4 Clemson
Nov. 11 at Wake Forest
Nov. 18 Florida
*Pigskin Classic; Jacksonville, FL

GEORGIA TECH
Aug. 27 at Virginia Tech*
Sept. 2 Central Florida
Sept. 9 Florida State
Sept. 16 Navy
Sept. 21 at N.C. State
Sept. 30 at North Carolina
Oct. 14 Wake Forest
Oct. 21 Duke
Oct. 28 at Clemson
Nov. 9 Virginia
Nov. 18 at Maryland
Nov. 25 at Georgia
*BCA Classic

MARYLAND
Sept. 9 Temple
Sept. 16 at West Virginia
Sept. 23 Middle Tennessee
Sept. 28 Florida State
Oct. 7 at Virginia
Oct. 14 at Clemson
Oct. 21 Wake Forest
Oct. 28 at Duke
Nov. 4 N.C. State
Nov. 11 at North Carolina
Nov. 18 Georgia Tech

NORTH CAROLINA
Sept. 2 Tulsa
Sept. 9 at Wake Forest
Sept. 16 at Florida State
Sept. 23 Marshall
Sept. 30 Georgia Tech
Oct. 14 N.C. State
Oct. 21 Clemson
Oct. 28 at Virginia
Nov. 4 at Pittsburgh
Nov. 11 Maryland
Nov. 18 at Duke

N.C. STATE
Sept. 2 Arkansas State
Sept. 9 at Indiana
Sept. 16 SMU
Sept. 21 Georgia Tech
Oct. 7 at Clemson
Oct. 14 at North Carolina
Oct. 28 Florida State
Nov. 4 at Maryland
Nov. 11 Duke
Nov. 18 at Virginia
Nov. 25 Wake Forest

VIRGINIA
Sept. 2 BYU
Sept. 9 Richmond
Sept. 16 at Duke
Sept. 23 Clemson
Sept. 30 at Wake Forest
Oct. 7 Maryland
Oct. 21 at Florida State
Oct. 28 North Carolina
Nov. 9 at Georgia Tech
Nov. 18 N.C. State
Nov. 25 at Virginia Tech

WAKE FOREST
Sept. 2 Appalachian State
Sept. 9 North Carolina
Sept. 16 at Clemson
Sept. 30 Virginia
Oct. 7 Vanderbilt
Oct. 14 at Georgia Tech
Oct. 21 at Maryland
Nov. 4 Duke
Nov. 11 Florida State
Nov. 18 at Navy
Nov. 25 at N.C. State

BIG EAST

BOSTON COLLEGE
Sept. 2 at West Virginia
Sept. 9 at Army
Sept. 23 Navy
Sept. 30 Virginia Tech
Oct. 7 Connecticut
Oct. 14 Syracuse
Oct. 21 at Pittsburgh
Oct. 28 Rutgers
Nov. 4 Temple
Nov. 11 at Notre Dame
Nov. 25 at Miami

MIAMI
Aug. 31 McNeese State
Sept. 9 at Washington
Sept. 23 at West Virginia
Sept. 30 at Rutgers
Oct. 7 Florida State
Oct. 21 at Temple
Oct. 28 Louisiana Tech
Nov. 4 Virginia Tech
Nov. 11 Pittsburgh
Nov. 18 at Syracuse
Nov. 25 Boston College

PITTSBURGH
Sept. 2 Kent
Sept. 9 at Bowling Green
Sept. 16 Penn State
Sept. 23 Rutgers
Oct. 7 at Syracuse
Oct. 21 Boston College
Oct. 28 at Virginia Tech
Nov. 4 North Carolina
Nov. 11 at Miami
Nov. 18 at Temple
Nov. 24 West Virginia

RUTGERS
Sept. 2 Villanova
Sept. 9 Buffalo
Sept. 16 at Virginia Tech
Sept. 23 at Pittsburgh
Sept. 30 Miami
Oct. 14 Temple
Oct. 21 at Navy
Oct. 28 at Boston College
Nov. 11 West Virginia
Nov. 18 Notre Dame
Nov. 25 at Syracuse

SYRACUSE
Sept. 2 Buffalo
Sept. 9 at Cincinnati
Sept. 23 at East Carolina
Sept. 30 BYU
Oct. 7 Pittsburgh
Oct. 14 at Boston College
Oct. 21 Virginia Tech
Nov. 4 at West Virginia
Nov. 11 at Temple
Nov. 18 Miami
Nov. 25 Rutgers

TEMPLE
Sept. 2 at Navy
Sept. 9 at Maryland
Sept. 16 Bowling Green
Sept. 23 Eastern Michigan
Sept. 28 West Virginia
Oct. 7 at Virginia Tech
Oct. 14 at Rutgers
Oct. 21 Miami
Nov. 4 at Boston College
Nov. 11 Syracuse
Nov. 18 Pittsburgh

VIRGINIA TECH
Aug. 27 Georgia Tech*
Sept. 2 Akron
Sept. 7 at East Carolina
Sept. 16 Rutgers
Sept. 30 at Boston College
Oct. 7 Temple
Oct. 12 West Virginia
Oct. 21 at Syracuse
Oct. 28 Pittsburgh
Nov. 4 at Miami
Nov. 11 at Central Florida
Nov. 25 Virginia
*BCA Classic

WEST VIRGINIA
Sept. 2 Boston College
Sept. 16 Maryland
Sept. 23 Miami
Sept. 28 at Temple
Oct. 7 Idaho
Oct. 12 at Virginia Tech
Oct. 21 Notre Dame
Nov. 4 Syracuse
Nov. 11 at Rutgers
Nov. 18 East Carolina
Nov. 24 at Pittsburgh

BIG TEN

ILLINOIS
Sept. 2 Middle Tennessee
Sept. 9 at San Diego State
Sept. 16 California
Sept. 23 Michigan
Sept. 30 at Minnesota
Oct. 14 Iowa
Oct. 21 at Penn State
Oct. 28 at Michigan State
Nov. 4 Indiana
Nov. 11 Ohio State
Nov. 18 at Northwestern

INDIANA
Sept. 9 N.C. State
Sept. 16 at Kentucky
Sept. 23 Cincinnati
Sept. 30 Iowa
Oct. 7 at Northwestern
Oct. 14 at Michigan
Oct. 21 Minnesota
Oct. 28 Penn State
Nov. 4 at Illinois
Nov. 11 Wisconsin
Nov. 18 at Purdue

IOWA
Aug. 26 at Kansas State*
Sept. 9 Western Michigan
Sept. 16 Iowa State
Sept. 23 at Nebraska
Sept. 30 at Indiana
Oct. 7 Michigan State
Oct. 14 at Illinois
Oct. 21 Ohio State
Oct. 28 Wisconsin
Nov. 4 at Penn State
Nov. 11 Northwestern
Nov. 18 at Minnesota
*Eddie Robinson Classic; Kansas City, MO

MICHIGAN
Sept. 2 Bowling Green
Sept. 9 Rice
Sept. 16 at UCLA
Sept. 23 at Illinois
Sept. 30 Wisconsin
Oct. 7 at Purdue
Oct. 14 Indiana
Oct. 21 Michigan State
Nov. 4 at Northwestern
Nov. 11 Penn State
Nov. 18 at Ohio State

MICHIGAN STATE
Sept. 9 Marshall
Sept. 16 at Missouri
Sept. 23 Notre Dame
Sept. 30 Northwestern
Oct. 7 at Iowa
Oct. 14 Wisconsin
Oct. 21 at Michigan
Oct. 28 Illinois
Nov. 4 at Ohio State
Nov. 11 Purdue
Nov. 18 at Penn State

MINNESOTA
Sept. 2 Louisiana-Monroe
Sept. 9 Ohio
Sept. 16 at Baylor
Sept. 23 at Purdue
Sept. 30 Illinois
Oct. 7 Penn State
Oct. 14 at Ohio State
Oct. 21 at Indiana
Oct. 28 Northwestern
Nov. 4 at Wisconsin
Nov. 18 Iowa

NORTHWESTERN
Aug. 31 Northern Illinois
Sept. 9 Duke
Sept. 16 at TCU
Sept. 23 at Wisconsin
Sept. 30 at Michigan State
Oct. 7 Indiana
Oct. 14 Purdue
Oct. 28 at Minnesota
Nov. 4 Michigan
Nov. 11 at Iowa
Nov. 18 Illinois

OHIO STATE
Sept. 2 Fresno State
Sept. 9 at Arizona
Sept. 16 at Miami (OH)
Sept. 23 Penn State
Oct. 7 at Wisconsin
Oct. 14 Minnesota
Oct. 21 at Iowa
Oct. 28 at Purdue
Nov. 4 Michigan State
Nov. 11 at Illinois
Nov. 18 Michigan

PENN STATE
Aug. 27 vs. Southern California*
Sept. 2 Toledo
Sept. 9 Louisiana Tech
Sept. 16 at Pittsburgh
Sept. 23 at Ohio State
Sept. 30 Purdue
Oct. 7 at Minnesota
Oct. 21 Illinois
Oct. 28 at Indiana
Nov. 4 Iowa
Nov. 11 at Michigan
Nov. 18 Michigan State
*Kickoff Classic; East Rutherford, NJ

PURDUE
Sept. 2 Central Michigan
Sept. 9 Kent
Sept. 16 at Notre Dame
Sept. 23 Minnesota
Sept. 30 at Penn State
Oct. 7 Michigan
Oct. 14 at Northwestern
Oct. 21 at Wisconsin
Oct. 28 Ohio State
Nov. 11 at Michigan State
Nov. 18 Indiana

WISCONSIN
Sept. 2 Western Michigan
Sept. 9 Oregon
Sept. 16 Cincinnati
Sept. 23 Northwestern
Sept. 30 at Michigan
Oct. 7 Ohio State
Oct. 14 at Michigan State
Oct. 21 Purdue
Oct. 28 at Iowa
Nov. 4 Minnesota
Nov. 11 at Indiana
Nov. 25 at Hawaii

BIG XII

BAYLOR
Aug. 31 at North Texas
Sept. 16 Minnesota
Sept. 23 South Florida
Sept. 30 Iowa State
Oct. 7 at Texas Tech
Oct. 14 Texas A&M
Oct. 21 at Nebraska
Oct. 28 at Texas
Nov. 4 Oklahoma
Nov. 11 Missouri
Nov. 18 at Oklahoma State

COLORADO
Sept. 2 Colorado State*
Sept. 9 at Southern California
Sept. 16 Washington
Sept. 30 Kansas State
Oct. 7 at Texas A&M
Oct. 14 Texas
Oct. 21 at Kansas
Oct. 28 Oklahoma State
Nov. 4 at Missouri
Nov. 11 Iowa State
Nov. 24 at Nebraska
*Mile High, Denver, CO

IOWA STATE
Aug. 31 Ohio
Sept. 9 UNLV
Sept. 16 at Iowa
Sept. 30 at Baylor
Oct. 7 Nebraska
Oct. 14 at Oklahoma State
Oct. 21 Texas A&M
Oct. 28 Missouri
Nov. 4 at Kansas State
Nov. 11 at Colorado
Nov. 18 Kansas

KANSAS
Sept. 2 at SMU
Sept. 16 UAB
Sept. 23 Southern Illinois
Sept. 30 at Oklahoma
Oct. 7 Kansas State
Oct. 14 at Missouri
Oct. 21 Colorado
Oct. 28 Texas Tech
Nov. 4 at Nebraska
Nov. 11 Texas
Nov. 18 at Iowa State

KANSAS STATE
Aug. 26 Iowa*
Sept. 2 Louisiana Tech
Sept. 16 Ball State
Sept. 23 North Texas
Sept. 30 at Colorado
Oct. 7 at Kansas
Oct. 14 Oklahoma
Oct. 21 Texas Tech
Oct. 28 at Texas A&M
Nov. 4 Iowa State
Nov. 11 Nebraska
Nov. 18 at Missouri
*Eddie Robinson Classic; Kansas City

MISSOURI
Sept. 2 Western Illinois
Sept. 9 at Clemson
Sept. 16 Michigan State
Sept. 30 at Nebraska
Oct. 7 Oklahoma State
Oct. 14 Kansas
Oct. 21 at Texas
Oct. 28 at Iowa State
Nov. 4 Colorado
Nov. 11 at Baylor
Nov. 18 Kansas State

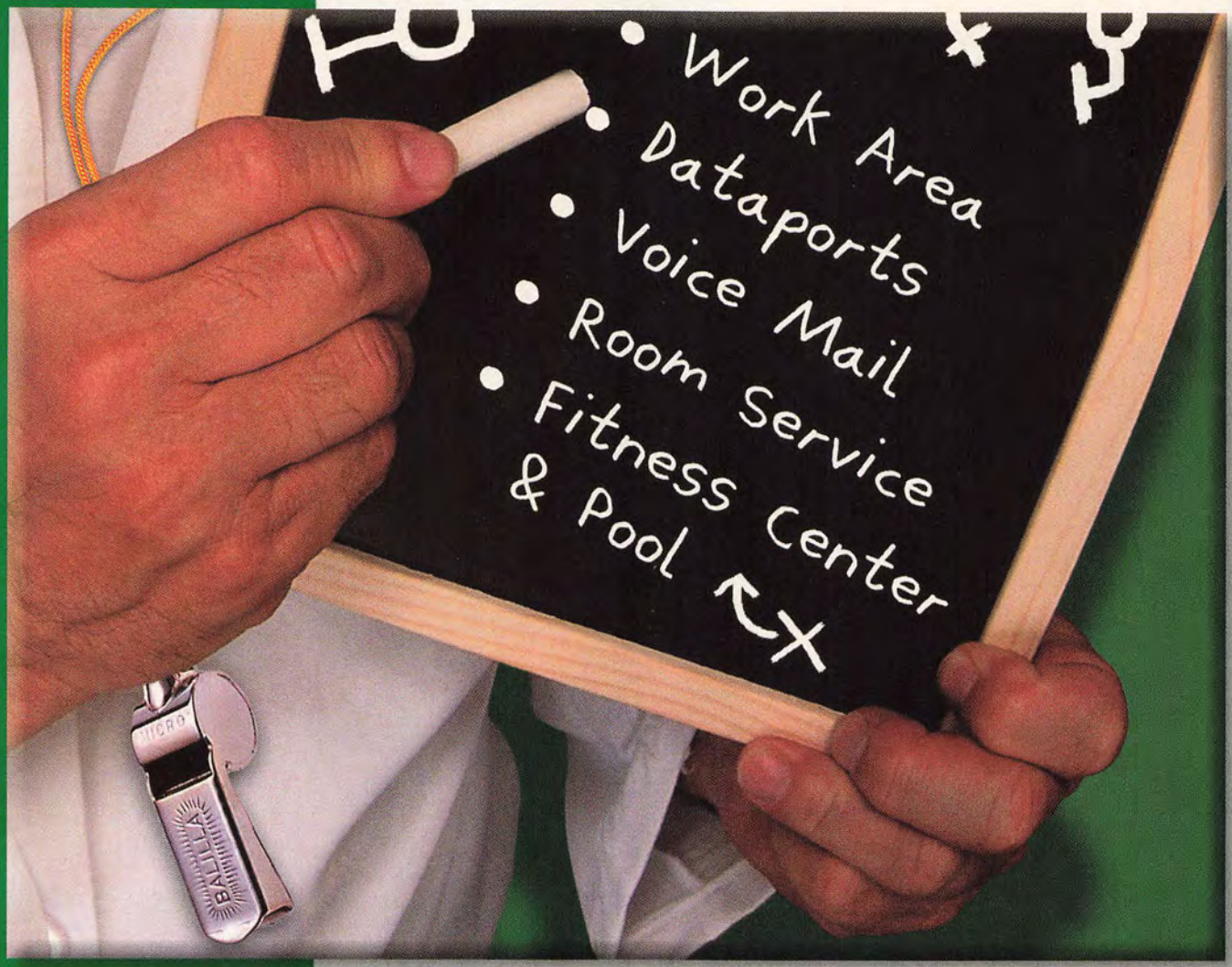
NEBRASKA
Sept. 2 San Jose State
Sept. 9 at Notre Dame
Sept. 23 Iowa
Sept. 30 Missouri
Oct. 7 at Iowa State
Oct. 14 at Texas Tech
Oct. 21 Baylor
Oct. 28 at Oklahoma
Nov. 4 Kansas
Nov. 11 at Kansas State
Nov. 24 Colorado

OKLAHOMA
Sept. 2 UTEP
Sept. 9 Arkansas State
Sept. 23 Rice
Sept. 30 Kansas
Oct. 7 Texas*
Oct. 14 at Kansas State
Oct. 28 Nebraska
Nov. 4 at Baylor
Nov. 11 at Texas A&M
Nov. 18 Texas Tech
Nov. 25 at Oklahoma State
*Dallas, TX

OKLAHOMA STATE
Sept. 9 at Tulsa
Sept. 16 SW Texas State
Sept. 23 Southern Mississippi
Sept. 30 at Texas
Oct. 7 at Missouri
Oct. 14 Iowa State
Oct. 28 at Colorado
Nov. 4 Texas A&M
Nov. 11 at Texas Tech
Nov. 18 Baylor
Nov. 25 Oklahoma

TEXAS
Sept. 9 Louisiana-Lafayette
Sept. 16 at Stanford
Sept. 23 Houston
Sept. 30 Oklahoma State
Oct. 7 Oklahoma*
Oct. 14 at Colorado
Oct. 21 Missouri
Oct. 28 Baylor
Nov. 4 at Texas Tech
Nov. 11 at Kansas
Nov. 24 Texas A&M
*Dallas, TX

For reservations: 1-800-HOLIDAY or www.holiday-inn.com



The Best Game Plan Features Holiday Inn®

We know you want to perform at the highest level when you're on the road. That's why Holiday Inn® hotels & resorts offers more options for business travelers. Business services that keep you in the game include: spacious in-room work areas with dataports and voice mail, plus room service. But you also have to make good use of your time outs. So we offer our award-winning Best-4-Breakfast® menu, a great meal in our full-service restaurant, a quick workout in our fitness center, or a refreshing dip in our pool.

Plus, score points at any of our more than 1,500 Holiday Inn hotels around the world as a member of our hotel rewards program, Priority Club® Worldwide. You can earn points redeemable for free nights, airline miles, or brand-name merchandise.*

For reservations call 1-800-HOLIDAY or visit us at www.holiday-inn.com. So find that winning edge by getting more at Holiday Inn because, as you know, More Is Better℠.

Holiday Inn®
HOTELS · RESORTS
More Is Better™

1-800-HOLIDAY
www.holiday-inn.com

Or call your travel professional. Guests with hearing impairments may call 1-800-238-5544 (TDD only).

*For complete Priority Club® terms and conditions or to enroll, visit www.prioritycluB.com or call 1-800-272-9273. Fitness center and/or voice mail may not be available at every hotel. ©2000 Bass Hotels & Resorts, Inc. All rights reserved. Most hotels are independently owned and/or operated.

National Schedules

Holiday Inn®
HOTELS · RESORTS
1-800-HOLIDAY

TEXAS A&M
Sept. 2 at Notre Dame
Sept. 9 Wyoming
Sept. 16 UTEP
Sept. 30 Texas Tech
Oct. 7 Colorado
Oct. 14 at Baylor
Oct. 21 at Iowa State
Oct. 28 Kansas State
Nov. 4 at Oklahoma State
Nov. 11 Oklahoma
Nov. 24 at Texas

TEXAS TECH
Sept. 2 Utah State
Sept. 9 North Texas
Sept. 16 Louisiana-Lafayette
Sept. 30 at Texas A&M
Oct. 7 Baylor
Oct. 14 Nebraska
Oct. 21 at Kansas State
Oct. 28 at Kansas
Nov. 4 Texas
Nov. 11 Oklahoma State
Nov. 18 at Oklahoma

BIG WEST

ARKANSAS STATE
Sept. 2 at N.C. State
Sept. 9 at Oklahoma
Sept. 16 Memphis
Sept. 23 at TCU
Sept. 30 Richmond
Oct. 7 at Mississippi
Oct. 14 at Idaho
Oct. 21 New Mexico State
Oct. 28 at Utah State
Nov. 4 Boise State
Nov. 11 North Texas

BOISE STATE
Sept. 2 at New Mexico
Sept. 9 Northern Iowa
Sept. 16 at Arkansas
Sept. 23 at Central Michigan
Oct. 7 at Washington State
Oct. 14 Eastern Washington
Oct. 21 North Texas
Oct. 28 at New Mexico State
Nov. 4 at Arkansas State
Nov. 11 Utah State
Nov. 18 Idaho

IDAHO
Sept. 2 at Washington
Sept. 9 Montana
Sept. 16 at Oregon
Sept. 23 at Washington State
Sept. 30 Montana State
Oct. 7 at West Virginia
Oct. 14 Arkansas State
Oct. 21 at Utah State
Nov. 4 at North Texas
Nov. 11 New Mexico State
Nov. 18 at Boise State

NEW MEXICO STATE
Sept. 2 at South Carolina
Sept. 16 New Mexico
Sept. 23 at Georgia
Sept. 30 at UTEP
Oct. 7 Army
Oct. 14 Tulsa
Oct. 21 at Arkansas State
Oct. 28 Boise State
Nov. 4 Utah State
Nov. 11 at Idaho
Nov. 18 at North Texas

NORTH TEXAS
Aug. 31 Baylor
Sept. 9 at Texas Tech
Sept. 16 at UNLV
Sept. 23 at Kansas State
Oct. 5 Samford
Oct. 14 Utah State
Oct. 21 at Boise State
Oct. 28 Louisiana-Lafayette
Nov. 4 Idaho
Nov. 11 at Arkansas State
Nov. 18 New Mexico State

UTAH STATE
Sept. 2 at Texas Tech
Sept. 9 Southern Utah
Sept. 23 at Arizona State
Sept. 30 Utah
Oct. 6 at BYU
Oct. 14 at North Texas
Oct. 21 Idaho
Oct. 28 Arkansas State
Nov. 4 at New Mexico State
Nov. 11 at Boise State
Nov. 18 Idaho State

C-USA

ARMY
Sept. 2 at Cincinnati
Sept. 9 Boston College
Sept. 16 at Houston
Sept. 23 Memphis
Oct. 7 at New Mexico State
Oct. 14 at East Carolina
Oct. 21 Tulane
Nov. 4 Air Force
Nov. 11 at Louisville
Nov. 18 UAB
Dec. 2 vs. Navy*
*Baltimore, MD

CINCINNATI
Sept. 2 Army
Sept. 9 Syracuse
Sept. 16 at Wisconsin
Sept. 23 at Indiana
Sept. 30 at Tulane
Oct. 7 Houston
Oct. 14 at Louisville
Oct. 28 Miami (OH)
Nov. 4 UAB
Nov. 11 at Memphis
Nov. 18 Southern Miss

EAST CAROLINA
Sept. 2 at Duke
Sept. 7 Virginia Tech
Sept. 16 Tulane
Sept. 23 Syracuse
Oct. 7 at Memphis
Oct. 14 Army
Oct. 19 at Louisville
Oct. 28 UAB
Nov. 11 Houston
Nov. 18 at West Virginia
Nov. 25 at Southern Mississippi

HOUSTON
Sept. 2 at Rice
Sept. 9 at LSU
Sept. 16 Army
Sept. 23 at Texas
Sept. 30 SMU
Oct. 7 at Cincinnati
Oct. 21 at Memphis
Oct. 28 Southern Miss
Nov. 4 at Tulane
Nov. 11 at East Carolina
Nov. 18 Louisville

LOUISVILLE
Sept. 2 Kentucky
Sept. 9 Grambling
Sept. 23 at Florida State
Sept. 30 Connecticut
Oct. 7 at UAB
Oct. 14 Cincinnati
Oct. 19 East Carolina
Oct. 28 Tulane
Nov. 4 at Southern Miss
Nov. 11 Army
Nov. 18 at Houston

MEMPHIS
Sept. 2 Mississippi State
Sept. 9 Louisiana-Monroe
Sept. 16 at Arkansas State
Sept. 23 at Army
Sept. 30 at Southern Miss
Oct. 7 East Carolina
Oct. 14 at UAB
Oct. 21 Houston
Nov. 4 Tennessee
Nov. 11 Cincinnati
Nov. 18 at Tulane

SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
Sept. 2 at Tennessee
Sept. 16 at Alabama
Sept. 23 at Oklahoma State
Sept. 30 Memphis
Oct. 7 South Florida
Oct. 14 at Tulane
Oct. 28 at Houston
Nov. 4 Louisville
Nov. 11 at UAB
Nov. 18 at Cincinnati
Nov. 25 East Carolina

TULANE
Sept. 2 at Mississippi
Sept. 16 at East Carolina
Sept. 23 at SMU
Sept. 30 Cincinnati
Oct. 7 at Louisiana-Lafayette
Oct. 14 Southern Miss
Oct. 21 at Army
Oct. 28 at Louisville
Nov. 4 Houston
Nov. 11 Navy
Nov. 18 Memphis

UAB
Sept. 7 UT-Chattanooga
Sept. 16 at Kansas
Sept. 23 at LSU
Sept. 30 Louisiana-Lafayette
Oct. 7 Louisville
Oct. 14 Memphis
Oct. 21 Middle Tennessee
Oct. 28 at East Carolina
Nov. 4 at Cincinnati
Nov. 11 Southern Miss
Nov. 18 at Army

INDY

CENTRAL FLORIDA
Sept. 2 at Georgia Tech
Sept. 9 Northwestern State
Sept. 16 at Akron
Sept. 23 William & Mary
Sept. 30 at Eastern Michigan
Oct. 7 at Northern Illinois
Oct. 14 Eastern Kentucky
Oct. 21 Louisiana-Monroe
Oct. 28 at Alabama
Nov. 4 at Louisiana Tech
Nov. 11 Virginia Tech

CONNECTICUT
Sept. 2 at Eastern Michigan
Sept. 9 Colgate
Sept. 16 at Buffalo
Sept. 23 Northeastern
Sept. 30 at Louisville
Oct. 7 at Boston College
Oct. 21 at Akron
Oct. 28 South Florida
Nov. 4 Middle Tennessee
Nov. 11 Rhode Island
Nov. 18 at Ball State

LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE
Sept. 2 Sam Houston State
Sept. 9 at Texas
Sept. 16 at Texas Tech
Sept. 23 Northwestern State
Sept. 30 at UAB
Oct. 7 Tulane
Oct. 14 at Louisiana Tech
Oct. 28 North Texas
Nov. 4 at Louisiana-Monroe
Nov. 18 at Middle Tennessee

LOUISIANA-MONROE
Sept. 2 at Minnesota
Sept. 9 at Memphis
Sept. 16 Nicholls State
Sept. 23 at Tennessee
Sept. 30 Southwest Texas
Oct. 7 at Arkansas
Oct. 14 at Middle Tennessee
Oct. 21 at Central Florida
Nov. 4 Louisiana-Lafayette
Nov. 11 Louisiana Tech
Nov. 18 Wofford

LOUISIANA TECH
Aug. 26 Mississippi Valley State
Sept. 2 at Kansas State
Sept. 9 at Penn State
Sept. 16 Stephen F. Austin
Sept. 23 at Tulsa
Oct. 7 at Middle Tennessee
Oct. 14 Louisiana-Lafayette
Oct. 21 at Auburn
Oct. 28 at Miami
Nov. 4 Central Florida
Nov. 11 at Louisiana-Monroe
Nov. 18 at Hawaii

MIDDLE TENNESSEE
Sept. 2 at Illinois
Sept. 9 at Florida
Sept. 16 Murray State
Sept. 23 at Maryland
Oct. 7 Louisiana Tech
Oct. 14 Louisiana-Monroe
Oct. 21 at UAB
Oct. 28 at Mississippi State
Nov. 4 at Connecticut
Nov. 11 South Florida
Nov. 18 Louisiana-Lafayette

NAVY
Sept. 2 Temple
Sept. 16 at Georgia Tech
Sept. 23 at Boston College
Sept. 30 TCU
Oct. 7 at Air Force
Oct. 14 vs. Notre Dame*
Oct. 21 Rutgers
Oct. 28 Toledo
Nov. 11 at Tulane
Nov. 18 Wake Forest
Dec. 2 Army#
*Orlando, FL
#Baltimore MD

NOTRE DAME
Sept. 2 Texas A&M
Sept. 9 Nebraska
Sept. 16 Purdue
Sept. 23 at Michigan State
Oct. 7 Stanford
Oct. 14 Navy*
Oct. 21 at West Virginia
Oct. 28 Air Force
Nov. 11 Boston College
Nov. 18 at Rutgers
Nov. 25 at Southern California
*Orlando, FL

MAC

AKRON
Sept. 2 at Virginia Tech
Sept. 9 at Central Michigan
Sept. 16 Central Florida
Sept. 23 at Ohio
Sept. 30 Miami (OH)
Oct. 7 at Bowling Green
Oct. 14 Northern Illinois
Oct. 21 Connecticut
Oct. 28 Marshall
Nov. 11 Buffalo
Nov. 18 at Kent

BALL STATE
Sept. 2 at Florida
Sept. 9 Western Illinois
Sept. 16 at Kansas State
Sept. 30 Northern Illinois
Oct. 7 at Miami (OH)
Oct. 14 Eastern Michigan
Oct. 21 at Buffalo
Oct. 28 at Central Michigan
Nov. 4 Western Michigan
Nov. 11 at Toledo
Nov. 18 Connecticut

BOWLING GREEN
Sept. 2 at Michigan
Sept. 9 Pittsburgh
Sept. 16 at Temple
Sept. 23 at Buffalo
Sept. 30 at Kent
Oct. 7 Akron
Oct. 14 at Miami (OH)
Oct. 21 Eastern Michigan
Nov. 4 Marshall
Nov. 11 Ohio
Nov. 18 at Toledo

BUFFALO
Sept. 2 at Syracuse
Sept. 9 at Rutgers
Sept. 16 Connecticut
Sept. 23 Bowling Green
Sept. 30 at Marshall
Oct. 7 at Ohio
Oct. 21 Ball State
Oct. 28 at Northern Illinois
Nov. 4 Kent
Nov. 11 at Akron
Nov. 18 Miami (OH)

CENTRAL MICHIGAN
Sept. 2 at Purdue
Sept. 9 Akron
Sept. 16 at Wyoming
Sept. 23 Boise State
Sept. 30 at Toledo
Oct. 7 Kent
Oct. 21 at Ohio
Oct. 28 Ball State
Nov. 4 at Eastern Michigan
Nov. 11 Western Michigan
Nov. 18 at Northern Illinois

EASTERN MICHIGAN
Sept. 2 Connecticut
Sept. 9 Miami (OH)
Sept. 16 at South Carolina
Sept. 23 at Temple
Sept. 30 Central Florida
Oct. 7 Toledo
Oct. 14 at Ball State
Oct. 21 at Bowling Green
Nov. 4 Central Michigan
Nov. 11 Northern Illinois
Nov. 18 at Western Michigan

KENT
Sept. 2 at Pittsburgh
Sept. 9 at Purdue
Sept. 16 Youngstown State
Sept. 23 at Miami (OH)
Sept. 30 Bowling Green
Oct. 7 at Central Michigan
Oct. 14 Ohio
Oct. 21 at Marshall
Oct. 28 Western Michigan
Nov. 4 at Buffalo
Nov. 18 Akron

MARSHALL
Aug. 31 SE Missouri State
Sept. 9 at Michigan State
Sept. 23 at North Carolina
Sept. 30 Buffalo
Oct. 7 Western Michigan
Oct. 14 at Toledo
Oct. 21 Kent
Oct. 28 at Akron
Nov. 4 at Bowling Green
Nov. 11 Miami (OH)
Nov. 18 at Ohio

MIAMI, OH
Sept. 2 at Vanderbilt
Sept. 9 at Eastern Michigan
Sept. 16 at Ohio State
Sept. 23 Kent
Sept. 30 at Akron
Oct. 7 Ball State
Oct. 14 Bowling Green
Oct. 28 at Cincinnati
Nov. 4 Ohio
Nov. 11 at Marshall
Nov. 18 at Buffalo

NORTHERN ILLINOIS
Aug. 31 at Northwestern
Sept. 9 Illinois State
Sept. 23 at Auburn
Sept. 30 at Ball State
Oct. 7 Central Florida
Oct. 14 at Akron
Oct. 21 at Western Michigan
Oct. 28 Buffalo
Nov. 4 Toledo
Nov. 11 at Eastern Michigan
Nov. 18 Central Michigan

OHIO
Aug. 31 at Iowa State
Sept. 9 at Minnesota
Sept. 16 Tennessee Tech
Sept. 23 Akron
Sept. 30 at Western Michigan
Oct. 7 Buffalo
Oct. 14 at Kent
Oct. 21 Central Michigan
Nov. 4 at Miami (OH)
Nov. 11 at Bowling Green
Nov. 18 Marshall

TOLEDO
Sept. 2 at Penn State
Sept. 9 Weber State
Sept. 16 Eastern Illinois
Sept. 23 at Western Michigan
Sept. 30 Central Michigan
Oct. 7 at Eastern Michigan
Oct. 14 Marshall
Oct. 28 at Navy
Nov. 4 at Northern Illinois
Nov. 11 Ball State
Nov. 18 Bowling Green

WESTERN MICHIGAN
Sept. 2 at Wisconsin
Sept. 9 at Iowa
Sept. 16 Indiana State
Sept. 23 Toledo
Sept. 30 Ohio
Oct. 7 at Marshall
Oct. 21 Northern Illinois
Oct. 28 at Kent
Nov. 4 at Ball State
Nov. 11 at Central Michigan
Nov. 18 Eastern Michigan

MWC

AIR FORCE
Sept. 2 Cal State-Northridge
Sept. 9 BYU
Sept. 23 at Utah
Sept. 30 at UNLV
Oct. 7 Navy
Oct. 14 at Wyoming
Oct. 21 New Mexico
Oct. 28 at Notre Dame

Nov. 4 at Army
Nov. 11 Colorado State
Nov. 18 San Diego State

BYU
Aug. 26 vs. Florida State*
Sept. 2 at Virginia
Sept. 9 at Air Force
Sept. 14 Mississippi State
Sept. 23 UNLV
Sept. 30 at Syracuse
Oct. 6 Utah State
Oct. 21 San Diego State
Oct. 26 Wyoming
Nov. 2 at Colorado State
Nov. 18 New Mexico
Nov. 25 at Utah
*Pigskin Classic; Jacksonville, FL

COLORADO STATE
Sept. 2 Colorado*
Sept. 9 East Tennessee
Sept. 16 at Arizona State
Sept. 30 at Nevada
Oct. 7 New Mexico
Oct. 14 UNLV
Oct. 21 at Utah
Oct. 28 at San Diego State
Nov. 2 BYU
Nov. 11 at Air Force
Nov. 16 Wyoming
*Mile High, Denver, CO

NEW MEXICO
Sept. 2 Boise State
Sept. 9 Oregon State
Sept. 16 at New Mexico State
Sept. 23 Northern Arizona
Sept. 30 Wyoming
Oct. 7 at Colorado State
Oct. 21 at Air Force
Oct. 28 Utah
Nov. 4 San Diego State
Nov. 11 at UNLV
Nov. 18 at BYU

SAN DIEGO STATE
Aug. 31 Arizona State
Sept. 9 Illinois
Sept. 16 at Arizona
Sept. 23 at Oregon State
Oct. 7 at Wyoming
Oct. 14 Utah
Oct. 21 at BYU
Oct. 28 Colorado State
Nov. 4 at New Mexico
Nov. 18 at Air Force
Nov. 25 UNLV

UNLV
Sept. 9 at Iowa State
Sept. 16 North Texas
Sept. 23 at BYU
Sept. 30 Air Force
Oct. 7 Nevada
Oct. 14 at Colorado State
Oct. 21 Wyoming
Oct. 28 at Mississippi
Nov. 4 at Utah
Nov. 11 New Mexico
Nov. 25 at San Diego State
Dec. 2 at Hawaii

UTAH
Sept. 2 Arizona
Sept. 9 at California
Sept. 16 Washington State
Sept. 23 Air Force
Sept. 30 at Utah State
Oct. 14 at San Diego State
Oct. 21 Colorado State
Oct. 28 at New Mexico
Nov. 4 UNLV
Nov. 11 at Wyoming
Nov. 25 BYU

WYOMING
Aug. 31 at Auburn
Sept. 9 at Texas A&M
Sept. 16 Central Michigan
Sept. 23 Nevada
Sept. 30 at New Mexico
Oct. 7 San Diego State
Oct. 14 Air Force
Oct. 21 at UNLV
Oct. 26 at BYU
Nov. 11 Utah
Nov. 16 at Colorado State

PAC-10

ARIZONA
Sept. 2 at Utah
Sept. 9 Ohio State
Sept. 16 San Diego State
Sept. 30 at Stanford
Oct. 7 at Southern Cal
Oct. 14 Washington State
Oct. 21 at Oregon
Oct. 28 UCLA
Nov. 4 at Washington
Nov. 11 Oregon State
Nov. 24 Arizona State

ARIZONA STATE
Aug. 31 at San Diego State
Sept. 16 Colorado State
Sept. 23 Utah State
Sept. 30 at UCLA
Oct. 7 California
Oct. 14 Washington
Oct. 21 at Washington State
Oct. 28 Oregon
Nov. 4 Southern Cal
Nov. 11 at Stanford
Nov. 24 at Arizona

CALIFORNIA
Sept. 9 Utah
Sept. 16 at Illinois
Sept. 23 at Fresno State
Sept. 30 Washington State
Oct. 7 at Arizona State
Oct. 14 UCLA
Oct. 21 at Washington
Oct. 28 at Southern Cal
Nov. 4 Oregon State
Nov. 11 at Oregon
Nov. 18 Stanford

OREGON
Sept. 2 Nevada
Sept. 9 at Wisconsin
Sept. 16 Idaho
Sept. 23 UCLA
Sept. 30 Washington
Oct. 14 at Southern California
Oct. 21 Arizona
Oct. 28 at Arizona State
Nov. 4 at Washington State
Nov. 11 California
Nov. 18 at Oregon State

OREGON STATE
Sept. 2 Eastern Washington
Sept. 9 at New Mexico
Sept. 23 San Diego State
Sept. 30 Southern California
Oct. 7 at Washington
Oct. 14 Stanford
Oct. 21 at UCLA
Oct. 28 Washington State
Nov. 4 at California
Nov. 11 at Arizona
Nov. 18 Oregon

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Aug. 27 vs. Penn State*
Sept. 9 Colorado
Sept. 23 San Jose State
Sept. 30 at Oregon State
Oct. 7 Arizona
Oct. 14 Oregon
Oct. 21 at Stanford
Oct. 28 California
Nov. 4 at Arizona State
Nov. 11 Washington State
Nov. 18 at UCLA
Nov. 25 Notre Dame
*Kickoff Classic; East Rutherford, NJ

STANFORD
Sept. 2 at Washington State
Sept. 9 San Jose State
Sept. 16 Texas
Sept. 30 Arizona
Oct. 7 at Notre Dame
Oct. 14 at Oregon State
Oct. 21 Southern Cal
Oct. 28 Washington
Nov. 4 at UCLA
Nov. 11 Arizona State
Nov. 18 at California

UCLA
Sept. 2 Alabama
Sept. 9 Fresno State
Sept. 16 Michigan
Sept. 23 at Oregon
Sept. 30 Arizona State
Oct. 14 at California
Oct. 21 Oregon State
Oct. 28 at Arizona
Nov. 4 Stanford
Nov. 11 at Washington
Nov. 18 Southern California

WASHINGTON
Sept. 2 Idaho
Sept. 9 Miami
Sept. 16 at Colorado
Sept. 30 at Oregon
Oct. 7 Oregon State
Oct. 14 at Arizona State
Oct. 21 California
Oct. 28 at Stanford
Nov. 4 Arizona
Nov. 11 UCLA
Nov. 18 at Washington State

WASHINGTON STATE
Sept. 2 Stanford
Sept. 16 at Utah
Sept. 23 Idaho
Sept. 30 at California
Oct. 7 Boise State
Oct. 14 at Arizona
Oct. 21 Arizona State
Oct. 28 at Oregon State
Nov. 4 Oregon
Nov. 11 at Southern California
Nov. 18 Washington

SEC

ALABAMA
Sept. 2 at UCLA
Sept. 9 Vanderbilt*
Sept. 16 Southern Miss*
Sept. 23 at Arkansas
Sept. 30 South Carolina
Oct. 14 Mississippi
Oct. 21 at Tennessee
Oct. 28 Central Florida
Nov. 4 at LSU
Nov. 11 at Mississippi State
Nov. 18 Auburn
*Birmingham, AL

ARKANSAS
Sept. 2 SW Missouri State*
Sept. 16 Boise State*
Sept. 23 Alabama
Sept. 30 Georgia
Oct. 7 Louisiana-Monroe
Oct. 14 at South Carolina
Oct. 28 at Auburn
Nov. 4 Mississippi
Nov. 11 at Tennessee
Nov. 18 at Mississippi State
Nov. 25 LSU*
*Little Rock, AR

AUBURN
Aug. 31 Wyoming
Sept. 9 at Mississippi
Sept. 16 LSU
Sept. 23 Northern Illinois
Sept. 30 Vanderbilt
Oct. 7 at Mississippi State
Oct. 14 at Florida
Oct. 21 Louisiana Tech
Oct. 28 Arkansas
Nov. 11 Georgia
Nov. 18 at Alabama

FLORIDA
Sept. 2 Ball State
Sept. 9 Middle Tennessee
Sept. 16 at Tennessee
Sept. 23 Kentucky
Sept. 30 at Mississippi State
Oct. 7 LSU
Oct. 14 Auburn
Oct. 28 Georgia*
Nov. 4 at Vanderbilt
Nov. 11 South Carolina
Nov. 18 at Florida State
*Jacksonville, FL

GEORGIA
Sept. 2 Georgia Southern
Sept. 9 at South Carolina
Sept. 23 New Mexico State
Sept. 30 at Arkansas
Oct. 7 Tennessee
Oct. 14 Vanderbilt
Oct. 21 at Kentucky
Oct. 28 at Florida*
Nov. 11 at Auburn
Nov. 18 Mississippi
Nov. 25 Georgia Tech
*Jacksonville, FL

KENTUCKY
Sept. 2 at Louisville
Sept. 9 South Florida
Sept. 16 Indiana
Sept. 23 at Florida
Sept. 30 at Mississippi
Oct. 7 South Carolina
Oct. 14 at LSU
Oct. 21 Georgia
Nov. 4 Mississippi State
Nov. 11 Vanderbilt
Nov. 18 at Tennessee

LSU
Sept. 2 Western Carolina
Sept. 9 Houston
Sept. 16 at Auburn
Sept. 23 UAB
Sept. 30 Tennessee
Oct. 7 at Florida
Oct. 14 Kentucky
Oct. 21 Mississippi State
Nov. 4 Alabama
Nov. 11 at Mississippi
Nov. 25 at Arkansas

MISSISSIPPI
Sept. 2 Tulane
Sept. 9 Auburn
Sept. 16 at Vanderbilt
Sept. 30 Kentucky
Oct. 7 Arkansas State
Oct. 14 at Alabama
Oct. 28 UNLV
Nov. 4 at Arkansas
Nov. 11 LSU
Nov. 18 at Georgia
Nov. 25 Mississippi State

MISSISSIPPI STATE
Sept. 2 at Memphis
Sept. 14 at BYU
Sept. 23 at South Carolina
Sept. 30 Florida
Oct. 7 Auburn
Oct. 21 at LSU
Oct. 28 Middle Tennessee
Nov. 4 at Kentucky
Nov. 11 Alabama
Nov. 18 Arkansas
Nov. 25 at Mississippi

SOUTH CAROLINA
Sept. 2 New Mexico State
Sept. 9 Georgia
Sept. 16 Eastern Michigan
Sept. 23 Mississippi State
Sept. 30 at Alabama
Oct. 7 at Kentucky
Oct. 14 Arkansas
Oct. 21 at Vanderbilt
Oct. 28 Tennessee
Nov. 11 at Florida
Nov. 18 at Clemson

TENNESSEE
Sept. 2 Southern Miss
Sept. 16 Florida
Sept. 23 Louisiana-Monroe
Sept. 30 at LSU
Oct. 7 at Georgia
Oct. 21 Alabama
Oct. 28 at South Carolina
Nov. 4 at Memphis
Nov. 11 Arkansas
Nov. 18 Kentucky
Nov. 25 at Vanderbilt

VANDERBILT
Sept. 2 Miami (OH)
Sept. 9 at Alabama
Sept. 16 Mississippi
Sept. 23 Duke
Sept. 30 at Auburn
Oct. 7 at Wake Forest
Oct. 14 at Georgia
Oct. 21 South Carolina
Nov. 4 Florida
Nov. 11 at Kentucky
Nov. 25 Tennessee

WAC

FRESNO STATE
Sept. 2 at Ohio State
Sept. 9 at UCLA
Sept. 23 California
Oct. 7 at Rice
Oct. 14 Nevada
Oct. 21 at UTEP
Oct. 28 Tulsa
Nov. 4 Hawaii
Nov. 11 at TCU
Nov. 18 SMU
Nov. 25 at San Jose State

HAWAII
Sept. 9 Portland State
Sept. 23 at UTEP
Sept. 30 Tulsa
Oct. 7 at TCU
Oct. 14 SMU
Oct. 21 at Rice
Oct. 28 San Jose State
Nov. 4 at Fresno State
Nov. 11 Nevada
Nov. 18 Louisiana Tech
Nov. 25 Wisconsin
Dec. 2 UNLV

NEVADA
Sept. 2 at Oregon
Sept. 9 TCU
Sept. 23 at Wyoming
Sept. 30 Colorado State
Oct. 7 at UNLV
Oct. 14 at Fresno State
Oct. 21 San Jose State
Oct. 28 at SMU
Nov. 4 UTEP
Nov. 11 at Hawaii
Nov. 18 Rice
Nov. 25 at Tulsa

RICE
Sept. 2 Houston
Sept. 9 at Michigan
Sept. 16 Tulsa
Sept. 23 at Oklahoma
Sept. 30 at San Jose State
Oct. 7 Fresno State
Oct. 21 Hawaii
Oct. 28 at TCU
Nov. 4 SMU
Nov. 11 at UTEP
Nov. 18 at Nevada

SAN JOSE STATE
Sept. 2 at Nebraska
Sept. 9 at Stanford
Sept. 16 Southern Utah
Sept. 23 at Southern California
Sept. 30 Rice
Oct. 7 at SMU
Oct. 14 UTEP
Oct. 21 at Nevada
Oct. 28 at Hawaii
Nov. 4 TCU
Nov. 18 at Tulsa
Nov. 25 Fresno State

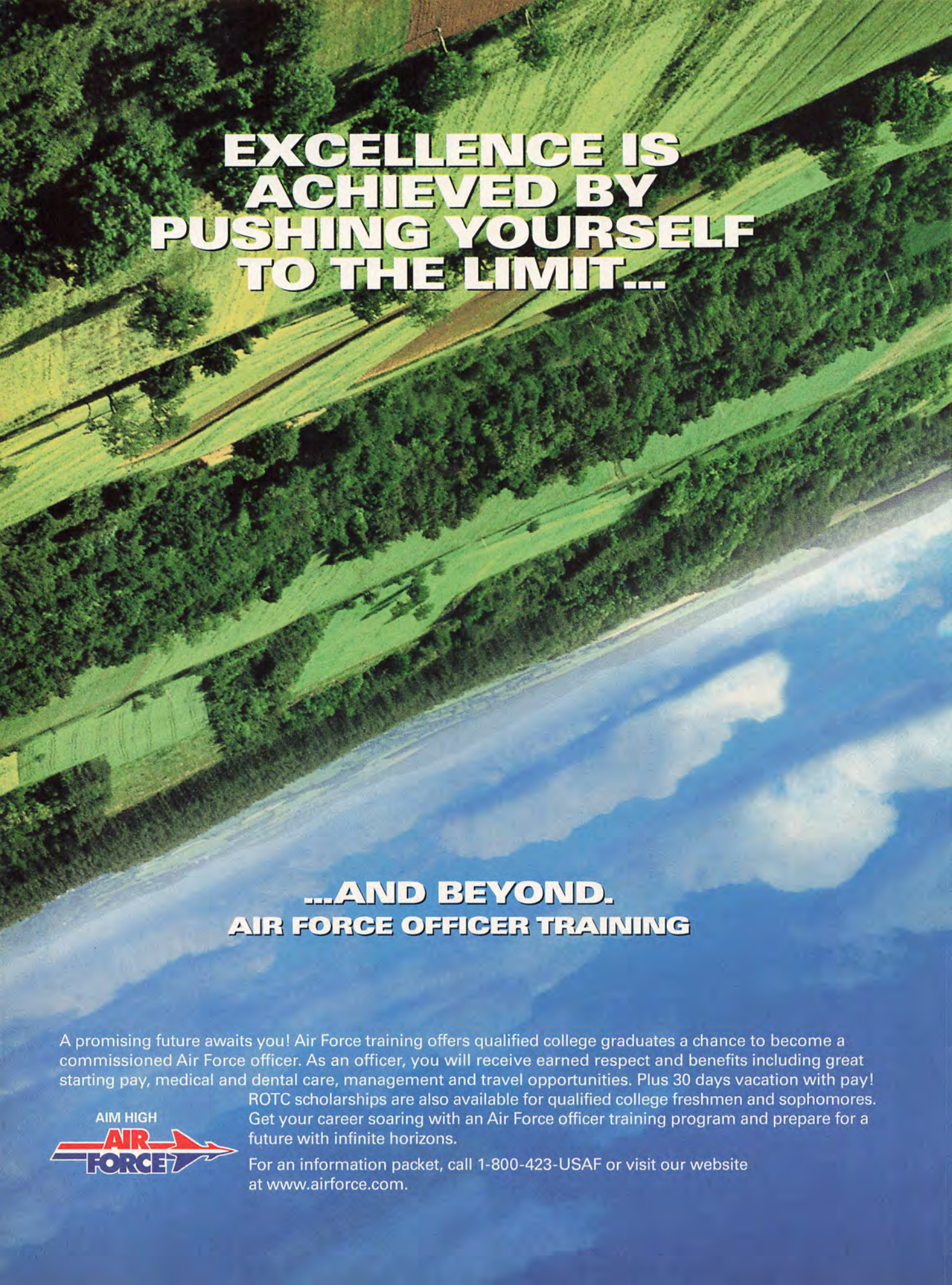
SMU
Sept. 2 Kansas
Sept. 9 at UTEP
Sept. 16 at N.C. State
Sept. 23 Tulane
Sept. 30 at Houston
Oct. 7 San Jose State
Oct. 14 at Hawaii
Oct. 28 Nevada
Nov. 4 at Rice
Nov. 11 Tulsa
Nov. 18 at Fresno State
Nov. 25 TCU

TCU
Sept. 9 at Nevada
Sept. 16 Northwestern
Sept. 23 Arkansas State
Sept. 30 at Navy
Oct. 7 Hawaii
Oct. 21 at Tulsa
Oct. 28 Rice
Nov. 4 at San Jose State
Nov. 11 Fresno State
Nov. 18 UTEP
Nov. 25 at SMU

TULSA
Sept. 2 at North Carolina
Sept. 9 Oklahoma State
Sept. 16 at Rice
Sept. 23 Louisiana Tech
Sept. 30 at Hawaii
Oct. 7 UTEP
Oct. 14 at New Mexico State
Oct. 21 TCU
Oct. 28 at Fresno State
Nov. 11 at SMU
Nov. 18 San Jose State
Nov. 25 Nevada

UTEP
Sept. 2 at Oklahoma
Sept. 9 SMU
Sept. 16 at Texas A&M
Sept. 23 Hawaii
Sept. 30 New Mexico State
Oct. 7 at Tulsa
Oct. 14 at San Jose State
Oct. 21 Fresno State
Nov. 4 at Nevada
Nov. 11 Rice
Nov. 18 at TCU

Holiday Inn®
HOTELS · RESORTS
1-800-HOLIDAY


EXCELLENCE IS ACHIEVED BY PUSHING YOURSELF TO THE LIMIT...
...AND BEYOND.
AIR FORCE OFFICER TRAINING
A promising future awaits you! Air Force training offers qualified college graduates a chance to become a commissioned Air Force officer. As an officer, you will receive earned respect and benefits including great starting pay, medical and dental care, management and travel opportunities. Plus 30 days vacation with pay! ROTC scholarships are also available for qualified college freshmen and sophomores. Get your career soaring with an Air Force officer training program and prepare for a future with infinite horizons.
AIM HIGH
AIR FORCE
For an information packet, call 1-800-423-USAF or visit our website at www.airforce.com.

NATIONAL RECRUITING

AIM HIGH
AIR FORCE
www.airforce.com

By Allen Wallace
SuperPrep

1 Florida

Previous five-year rankings: 7/7/3/13/3

The Gators weren't No. 1 on the eve of signing day, but they closed with an unmatched flourish to zoom up the charts and steal the top ranking.

Steve Spurrier's last-minute additions included offensive linemen **Max Starks** and **Jonathan Colon**, receivers **Carlos Perez** and **Kelvin Kight** and defensive back **Tre Orr**. Overall, five of Florida's signees were on *SuperPrep's* National 50 team: Perez, QB **Brock Berlin**, DE **Darrell Lee**, DB **Cory Bailey** and OL **Shannon Snell**.

A quarterback signing with Florida is always a big deal, and Berlin is the biggest deal in this year's class. He was the nation's top-rated signal-caller … and he came with the added bonus of being able to enroll at the semester break and participate in spring ball.

The defense gets a huge boost as well with a defensive line class that is second only to Alabama's.

2 Tennessee

Previous five-year rankings: 12/8/8/8/18

This we know: Phillip Fulmer can recruit terrific quarterbacks. This time around, he signed **Casey Clausen** (*SuperPrep's* No. 4 quarterback) and **John Rattay** (No. 5) … and both enrolled for the spring semester.

The Vols won an early well-publicized battle for Ohio offensive lineman **Michael Munoz**, the son of NFL Hall of Famer Anthony Munoz. But it took a last-minute turnaround for Tennessee to convince fantastic Georgia offensive lineman Sean Jones to sign with the Vols instead of Clemson.

One thing to learn from this class is that the Vols recruit wherever they want: New Jersey, California, Louisiana, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Ohio, Illinois, North Carolina, Arizona, Alabama, Kansas, Canada … and, of course, Tennessee.

3 Florida State

Previous five-year rankings: 15/4/1/3/2

The Seminoles recruited like national champions, bringing in four of the top 25 high schools players in *SuperPrep's* rankings … and a lot, lot more. They even signed the best junior college receiver — **Javon Walker** — to help fill Peter Warrick's shoes.

The defensive back class is beyond compare. It starts with **Bryant McFadden**, the nation's finest defensive back prospect, but **Yohance Buchanan** isn't far behind, rated No. 20 overall in *SuperPrep's* rankings.

Like in-state rivals Florida and Miami, the Seminoles finished strong, getting late decisions from McFadden, California defensive lineman **Travis Johnson**, linebacker **Eric Moore** and offensive lineman **Alex Barron** — all studs.

A sleeper to watch: Texas offensive lineman **Ray Willis**.

4 Texas

Previous five-year rankings: 1/10/7/12 /20

The 'Horns have the best wide receiver class in the nation — **B.J. Johnson, Roy Williams** and **Sloan Thomas**, each from Texas and each named to the *SuperPrep* National 50 team.

In fact, Texas was all about Texas, signing 18 in-state prospects and only five from outside the borders. The strategy worked.

The Longhorns signed more national Top 50 players than anybody — the three receivers, as well as defensive lineman **Stevie Lee**, defensive lineman **Adam Doiron** and tight end **Brock Edwards**.

Fantastic running back **Sneezy Beltran** and All-America quarterback **Chance Mock** are just more All-Americans jumping onto the pile.

5 Alabama

Previous five-year rankings: 3/6/6/37/12

This 27-player class stands powerfully as an amazing compilation of offensive linemen and defensive athletes.

Alabama signed what could be the best defensive line group … ever. It includes *SuperPrep's* National Player of the Year, **Antwan Odom**, a skilled end who should grow to about 280 pounds. The class got stronger when Canada's best prospect, **Nautyn McKay-Loescher**, put the juke on Michigan State at the last moment to join a group that includes **Mac Tyler, Anthony Bryant** and **Albert Means**.

The Tide hurt Florida twice along the offensive line — signing **Wesley Britt** and **Justin Smiley**. They join lineman **Maurice Mitchell** as offensive headliners.

6 Penn State

Previous five-year rankings: 30/11/2/1/6

The Nittany Lions did the best job of anyone early, getting 19 excellent commitments before the season even started. Penn State's strong finish (RB **Mike Gasparato**, WR/RB **Tony Johnson** and LB **Derek Wake)** cemented a top ranking.

The thing is, there are *SuperPrep* All-Americas at virtually every position … but the class does lack headliner-type prospects (no *SuperPrep* National 50 signees).

The defensive line looks particularly strong. And quarterbacks **Zac Wasserman** and **Zack Mills** are both well-regarded; Wasserman, in particular, is incredibly polished for his age.

7 Miami

Previous five-year rankings: 11/30/13/ 18/ 16

The 'Canes signed the nation's No. 1 recruit — linebacker **D.J. Williams** from California. He's the key to the class, especially since linebacker Nate Webster unexpectedly won't be around for his senior season.

Overall, this is a very well-balanced class with superior signees at every position: Quarterback (**T.J. Prunty, Derrick Crudup**), running back (**Willis McGahee**), receiver (**Willie Dixon**), tight end (**Willie Roberts**), offensive line (**Carlos Joseph**), defensive line (**Vince Wilfork**) and defensive back (**Carl Walker**).

In one of the oddest recruiting stories of the year, the 'Canes lost offensive lineman Jonathan Colon to Florida when he signed a letter-of-intent for each school. Miami eventually decided not to contest the matter when Colon made it clear he wanted to be a Gator.

8 Ohio State

Previous five-year rankings: 2/13/16/2/28

John Cooper typically keeps the best prospects in state, but this time he did especially well outside the borders. Nine states are represented in this class of 24, half of whom are from somewhere other than Ohio.

The Buckeyes did particularly well in New York, luring the top three prospects — running back **Sam Maldonado** (*SuperPrep's* Northeast Offensive Player of the Year), tight end/defensive end **Will Smith**

AIM HIGH
AIR FORCE
www.airforce.com

NATIONAL RECRUITING

and offensive lineman **Shane Olivea**.

It's a balanced class, but the linebackers really stand out. In addition to **Robert Reynolds** (a Top 50 player like Maldonado), the Buckeyes landed **Marco Cooper** and junior college star **Jack Tucker**, among others.

9 Arizona State

Previous five-year rankings: 33/15/40/42/50

This is Arizona State's best class … maybe ever. It's highlighted by a strong group of 11 Californians, although the Devils did well in other areas, including their home state.

The best of the in-staters is clearly **Terrell Suggs**, a 6-5, 240-pound running back/linebacker who was *SuperPrep's* Farwest Offensive Player of the Year and also a national 50 pick. Bruce Snyder also signed **Mike Williams**, one of the top running backs in California.

At quarterback, ASU added **Andrew Walter** from Colorado. He threw for 4,905 yards and 45 touchdowns in the past two years.

10 Michigan State

Previous five-year rankings: 23/14/35/24/38

The Spartans were this year's biggest and most surprising recruiting story, actually picking up steam after coach Nike Saban bolted for big bucks to LSU.

Popular new coach Bobby Williams kept the staff together and piled up commitments from super recruits like receiver **Charles Rogers** and running back **Tyrell Dortch**. He also kept **Jeff Smoker**, *SuperPrep's* No. 3-rated quarterback, from going elsewhere.

There is some excellent defensive line help here, led by All-America **Dwight Whitfield** from Missouri, although MSU's near-perfect story came a bit undone at the end when Canadian defensive lineman Nautyn McKay-Loescher de-committed in favor of Alabama.

11 Southern California

Previous five-year rankings: 14/16/14/5/9

The Trojans were hot at the end of the recruiting season, and scored especially well against nemesis UCLA, winning battles for defensive lineman **Kenechi Udeze**, tight end **Alex Holmes** and defensive back **Matt Grootegoed**.

The Trojans lost out on star junior college runner **Maurice Morris** (to Oregon), but got more than solid help from the JC ranks … and they will definitely like what they see from transfer defensive back **Chris Cash**.

Also, USC signed **Joe McGuire**, a Top 50 player who will be counted on to lead a resurgence on the offensive line.

12 Notre Dame

Previous five-year rankings: 8/3/9/6/1

This class was quietly, solidly put together … and as you might expect with Notre Dame, each of its 18 signees received *SuperPrep* All-America or All-Regional honors.

The Irish did best on offense. They signed their best group of receivers ever, and filled a huge need by signing three superior quarterbacks, including **Carlyle Holiday**, who slightly favored Nebraska in late January, but went to ND for the possibility of earlier playing time.

Defensive lineman **Greg Pauly** (this guy can really move his feet) and receiver **Ronnie Rodamer** — both *SuperPrep* National 50 picks — should be magnificent.

13 Michigan

Previous five-year rankings: 4/2/4/7/7

In its nationwide search, Michigan, as usual, came away with some superior prospects in the West. Washington linebacker **Larry Stevens** and California tight end **Tyler Ecker** should be excellent. Two signees are *SuperPrep* National 50 picks: Defensive back **Markus Curry** and running back **Reggie Benton**, rated No. 2 at his position nationally.

The Wolverines looked like they were headed for the Top 10, maybe even the top five, but the stretch run did not go well. Losing out on several elite recruits makes this the worst Michigan class in years … but it's still good enough to be the envy of most everyone else.

14 Oregon

Previous five-year rankings: 35/37/31/36/40

The Ducks, who have been Top 25 caliber on the field, made the jump into the Top 25 recruiting rankings, doing so mostly on the strength of 21 signees from California. Of the other six, three were from Oregon … and the very best one was from Chester, S.C., by way of Fresno City College. That would be **Maurice Morris**, who rushed for 3,708 yards and scored 49 touchdowns in junior college.

There is lots more to like in a class that emphasized skill; Mike Bellotti brought in seven running backs and eight defensive backs.

15 Nebraska

Previous five-year rankings: 17/17/19/4/8

The Cornhuskers' typically excellent class is strong at linebacker, offensive line and receivers.

SuperPrep National 50 pick **Jason Richenberger** leads a linebacker crew that also includes **Lannie Hopkins** (*SuperPrep's* ninth best player overall in Texas), **Ira Cooper** and **T.J. Hollowell**. Another Top 50 player is defensive back **Terrell Butler**.

The lone junior college player — as well as the lone running back — is **Thunder Collins**, rated as the 24th-best player in the JC ranks. Collins, who redshirted last season to preserve a year of college eligibility, will enter as a sophomore.

16 Colorado

Previous five-year rankings: UR/21/5/9/10

Gary Barnett did what he absolutely had to do: Close the deal on **Marcus Houston**, a hometown kid who also happened to be the nation's top running back recruit. Regardless of how Houston performs, his stamp of approval means a lot to the CU program.

Barnett did a fine job in-state, also landing quarterback **Craig Ochs** and linebacker **Sean Tufts** (a national Top 50 player), among others. Ochs became quite a hot property because he can make the plays that can turn an ordinary team into a special outfit.

Barnett also signed five solid junior college players, including another quarterback — **Bob Pesavento**.

17 Auburn

Previous five-year rankings: 27/39/20/22/5

The Tigers did better than anyone in getting immediate and significant help from the junior colleges.

NATIONAL RECRUITING

AIM HIGH
AIR FORCE
www.airforce.com

Running back **Rudi Johnson** (enrolled in the spring) and defensive end **Javor Mills** are ranked among the top five junior college prospects nationally. Linebacker/defensive lineman **Alton Moore** (No. 13) and quarterback **Daniel Cobb** (No. 16) are two other superior transfers.

As good as Cobb is, the title of "quarterback of the future" goes to **Jason Campbell**, whose skills are still a little raw, but has all the tools and was ranked as the nation's No. 2 quarterback, trailing only Florida signee Brock Berlin.

18 Georgia Tech

Previous five-year rankings: 16/44/25/11/25

Needing to start anew after the Joe Hamilton Era, Georgia Tech signed two excellent quarterbacks — **Brandon Sumner** (the best QB in Florida) and **Mark Logan** from South Carolina. In the mold of Hamilton, both can run and throw.

George O'Leary has reason to be particularly thrilled with his linebackers, all of whom are from Georgia — **Hobie Holiday** (Alabama decommit), **Daryl Smith** (turned away Florida State) and **Keyaron Fox**.

This 22-member class has nice national representation, including prospects from New York, Texas, Florida, Illinois, Maryland and Alabama.

19 Oklahoma

Previous five-year rankings: 36/20/24/32/27

Restocking the shelves at Oklahoma means dominating the state and dipping into the deep Texas talent pool. That's what Bob Stoops did.

He signed most of the finest prospects in Oklahoma, including defensive lineman **Jammal Brown** and offensive lineman **Wes Sims**.

The Sooners brought in 11 from Texas, most notably defensive back **Darren Stephens**, a *SuperPrep* All-America, who has a 41-inch vertical leap and 13 career interceptions. Also, keep an eye on defensive back **Vernon Maxwell**, who originally signed with Tennessee in 1996, before detouring to baseball's minor leagues.

20 Purdue

Previous five-year rankings: 29/22/UR/UR/UR

The Boilermakers went to California to sign "the next Drew Brees" ... and while that's a tough title to live up to, **Brandon Hance** has the accuracy, intellect and feet needed to make Joe Tiller's offense work.

In the last two seasons, Hance passed for 4,600 yards and 41 scores while running for 900 yards and 26 more scores. He enrolled in January and is the key to the class.

But there's plenty of other talent, including these two from Michigan: Receiver **Stuart Schweigert** (*SuperPrep's* Midwest Offensive Player of the Year) and offensive lineman **Kelly Butler**. Schweigert headlines a very good group of receivers.

21 Washington

Previous five-year rankings: 42/35/21/31/23

The Huskies cleaned up in-state (the loss of linebacker **Larry Stevens** to Michigan notwithstanding) — and that's what Huskies fans really want to see from Rick Neuheisel.

Washington's in-state haul includes these *SuperPrep* All-Americans: offensive lineman **Dan Dicks**, athlete **Grady Sizemore** and defensive lineman **Junior Coffin**. Linebackers **Zach Tuiasosopo, Tim Galloway** and **Matt Lingley** all look like great fits, too.

As usual, UW was working overtime in California (nine signed) and came away with some very well-regarded preps. Overall, this is a big (25 signees) well-balanced group with some speed, too.

22 Wisconsin

Previous five-year rankings: 47/27/30/21/14

When Barry Alvarez took the Wisconsin job, he said, "Our heart and soul will come from Wisconsin, but our hands and feet will come from somewhere else."

When he said "heart and soul," he must have been dreaming about linebacker **Darius Jones,** who had 10 sacks and 20 tackles for loss as a senior (also rushing for 1,464 yards).

Running back is a strength of this class, and includes **Michael Broussard** from Texas and **Tyron Griffin** from Missouri. Another back to watch is **Howard Boye-Doe** from Texas, even though he went largely unheralded through his high school career.

23 Syracuse

Previous five-year rankings: 21/29/26/23/24

The best thing about this class is **Johnnie Morant**, a big (6-5, 225) elite-level receiver who will give coach Paul Pasqualoni the opportunity to stretch the passing game about as far as his quarterbacks can throw it.

That quarterback just might be JC transfer (and former Arizona State backup) **Chad Elliot**, who, in the Syracuse quarterback mold, is dangerous with the run and the pass.

Pasqualoni added some major speed on offense, referring to Ohio running back **Walter Reyes** as a "rocket ship." **Diamond Ferri** and **Troy Swittenburg** are also explosive backs.

24 UCLA

Previous five-year rankings: 6/1/29/25/17

The Bruins packed a small class (14) with enough quality that it should stand the test of time.

Defensive back **Benjamin Emanuel** is *SuperPrep's* Southwest Defensive Player of the Year and one of the finest in the country; receiver **Tab Perry** could have chosen any school in the land. The offensive line recruits — **Steve Vieira, Paul Mociler, John Ream** and **Eyoseff Efseaff** — are fantastic.

The linebackers are another strong part of this class, which should nicely supplement Bob Toledo's previous two Best-in-the-West efforts.

25 Stanford

Previous five-year rankings: 20/18/22/29/30

Building off its Rose Bowl appearance, Stanford put together a solid, sometimes spectacular, class.

On signing day, the Cardinal locked up the nation's No. 1 offensive line prospect (**Kwame Harris**) and the No. 6 running back (**Brandon Royster**), as well as two All-American tight ends (**Will Svitek** and **Alex Smith**).

Then came more wonderful news later in February: Highly-regarded San Diego teammates **Teyo Johnson** (a quarterback and basketball player of note) and linebacker **Amon Gordon** decided to join Tyrone Willingham's team, which looks to have a bright future. ❑

AIM HIGH
AIR FORCE
www.airforce.com

NATIONAL RECRUITING

100 for 2000
TOP INCOMING FRESHMEN

QUARTERBACKS

Brock Berlin	6-2	200	Shreveport-Evangel Christian, LA	Florida
Jason Campbell	6-5	185	Taylorsville, MS	Auburn
Matt Cassel	6-4	218	Chatsworth, CA	Southern California
Jared Clark	6-4	220	Sarasota-Mooney, FL	Notre Dame
Casey Clausen	6-4	210	Missions Hills-Alemany, CA	Tennessee
Brandon Hance	6-1	188	Woodland Hills-Taft, CA	Purdue
Carlyle Holiday	6-4	198	San Antonio-Roosevelt, TX	Notre Dame
Sean Jones	6-2	195	Atlanta-Westlake, GA	Georgia
Chance Mock	6-2	195	The Woodlands, TX	Texas
Craig Ochs	6-2	205	Boulder-Fairview, CO	Colorado
John Rattay	6-4	205	Phoenix-Desert Vista, AZ	Tennessee
Chris Rix	6-4	200	Rancho Santa Margarita, CA	Florida State
Jeff Smoker	6-4	195	Manheim Central, PA	Michigan State
Tracy Thorpe	6-4	228	Melbourne, FL	Central Florida

RUNNING BACKS

Derick Arnold	6-1	222	Houston-Milby, TX	Arizona State
Tatum Bell	5-11	185	Desoto, TX	Oklahoma State
Sneezy Beltran	6-1	200	Abilene, TX	Texas
Shyrone Carey	5-8	180	Marrero-Shaw, LA	Tennessee
Tyrell Dortch	5-11	196	Hoboken, NJ	Michigan State
Vontez Duff	6-0	185	Copperas Cove, TX	Notre Dame
Willie Green	5-9	200	Kissimmee-Osceola, FL	Florida
Albert Hollis, II	6-0	190	Sacramento Christian Bros., CA	Georgia
Marcus Houston	6-2	208	Denver-Jefferson, CO	Colorado
Greg Jones	6-1	230	Beaufort-Battery Cr., SC	Florida State
Keith Kelly	6-0	213	Walterboro, SC	Clemson
Willis McGahee	6-1	215	Miami-Central, FL	Miami
Derron Parquet	6-1	210	Metairie-Rummel, LA	LSU
Dustin Picciotti	6-3	238	Doylestown C.B.W., PA	Pittsburgh
Tyson Thompson	6-2	195	Irving, TX	TCU
Marquis Weeks	5-11	195	Berwyn-Conestoga, PA	Virginia
Renaldo Works	6-1	190	Tulsa-Washington, OK	Oklahoma

WIDE RECEIVERS

Jamaal Clark	6-2	188	St. Louis-Riverview Gardens, MO	Illinois
Willie Dixon	5-11	180	Stockton-Brookside Christian, CA	Miami
Travann Hayes	6-0	175	Elgin Larkin, IL	Wisconsin
B.J. Johnson	6-1	180	S. Grand Prairie, TX	Texas
Mark Jones	5-9	170	Wallingford Strath Haven, PA	Tennessee
Kelvin Kight	6-0	190	Lithonia, GA	Florida
Antwoine Lias	6-2	175	Memphis Melrose, TN	Kentucky
Sammy Moore	6-0	175	Mesa-Westwood, AZ	Arizona State
Johnnie Morant	6-5	223	Parsippany Hills, NJ	Syracuse
Tab Perry	6-3	205	Milpitas, CA	UCLA
Charlie Rogers	6-4	190	Saginaw, MI	Michigan State
Sloan Thomas	6-2	190	Houston-Klein, TX	Texas
Roy Williams	6-4	200	Odessa Permian, TX	Texas
Jovan Witherspoon	6-5	210	Ft. Wayne-Luers, IN	Notre Dame

TIGHT ENDS

Brock Edwards	6-5	250	Fort Worth Christian, TX	Texas
Alex Holmes	6-3	300	Studio City-West Lake, CA	Southern California
Chad Mascoe	6-3	215	Kissimmee Osceola, FL	Florida State
Jason Peters	6-4	270	Queen City, TX	Arkansas
Willie Roberts	6-7	225	Miami-Southridge, FL	Miami
Quinn Sypniewski	6-6	225	Johnston, IA	Colorado
Kalen Thornton	6-4	260	Dallas-St. Marks, TX	Texas

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Chris Boggas	6-4	305	Irving, TX	Kansas State
Dan Dicks	6-6	285	Bellevue, WA	Washington
Antonio Hall	6-5	293	Canton McKinley, OH	Kentucky
Kwame Harris	6-6	320	Newark, DE	Stanford
Joe McGuire	6-6	285	Anaheim-Servite, CA	Southern California
Maurice Mitchell	6-8	295	Albany-Dougherty, GA	Alabama
Paul Mociler	6-6	300	Bellflower-Bosco, CA	UCLA
Michael Munoz	6-7	292	Cincinnati-Moeller, OH	Tennessee
Jason Respert	6-4	275	Warner Robins-Northside, GA	Undecided
Wes Sims	6-6	295	Weatherford, OK	Oklahoma
Shannon Snell	6-6	300	Tampa Hillsborough, FL	Florida
Sean Young	6-7	290	Tunnell Hill-N.W. Whitfield, GA	Tennessee

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Jammal Brown	6-6	290	Lawton-MacArthur, OK	Oklahoma
Anthony Bryant	6-4	312	Newbern-Sunshine, AL	Alabama
Teyo Johnson	6-7	245	San Diego-Mira Mesa, CA	Stanford
Travis Johnson	6-4	260	Sherman Oaks-Notre Dame, CA	Florida State
Darrell Lee	6-5	230	Kirkwood, MO	Florida
Lynn McGruder	6-3	280	N. Las Vegas-Cheyenne, NV	Tennessee
Albert Means	6-6	305	Memphis-Trezevant, TN	Alabama
Marcel Moses	6-4	300	Texas City, TX	Texas
Antwan Odom	6-7	250	Alma Bryant, AL	Alabama
Greg Pauly	6-5	260	Waukesha-South, WI	Notre Dame
Mac Tyler	6-5	300	Bessemer-Lanier, AL	Alabama
Marcus White	6-4	260	Theodore, AL	Auburn
Vince Wilfork	6-3	310	Lantana-Santaluces, FL	Miami
Stephen Williams	6-4	265	Bolingbrook, IL	Indiana

LINEBACKERS

Mike Boulware	6-2	200	Columbia-Spring Valley, SC	Florida State
Marco Cooper	6-1	220	Detroit Cass Tech, MI	Ohio State
Mike Goolsby	6-4	227	Joliet Catholic, IL	Notre Dame
Amon Gordon	6-3	270	San Diego-Mira Mesa, CA	Stanford
Darius Jones	6-3	250	Deloit-Memorial, WI	Wisconsin
Ronbrose Jones	6-3	217	Bristow, OK	Oklahoma
Sam Maldonado	6-2	220	Harrison, NY	Ohio State
Eric Moore	6-5	220	Pahokee, FL	Florida State
Dan Phillips	6-5	250	Mishawaka Penn, IN	Indiana
Terrell Suggs	6-4	240	Chandler-Hamilton, AZ	Arizona State
D.J. Williams	6-1	221	Concord-De La Salle, CA	Miami

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Yulkeith Brown	5-11	180	Miami-Northwestern, FL	West Virginia
Yohance Buchanan	6-1	210	Atlanta-Douglass, GA	Florida State
Deshawn Carter	6-1	190	Ponchatoula, LA	Florida
Matt Grootegoed	6-0	200	Santa Ana-Mater Dei, CA	Southern California
Adrian Mayes	6-1	198	Houston-Forest Brook, TX	LSU
Bryant McFadden	6-1	180	Hollywood-McArthur, FL	Florida State
Tre Orr	6-2	200	Lake City-Columbia, FL	Florida
O.J. Owens	6-1	190	New London-N. Stanley, NC	Tennessee
Carlos Perez	6-1	200	Hoboken, NJ	Florida
Lawrence Richardson	5-11	170	Galveston-Ball, TX	Arkansas
Dominique Sims	6-2	200	Minneapolis-De LaSalle, MN	Minnesota

"If YOU Like College Recruiting... You'll LOVE PrepStar!"

Four BIG issues plus Favorite College Report!

- Pre-Season issue (Aug)
- Pre-Signing issue (Jan)
- Recruiting Kickoff & JUCO Report (Dec)
- Recruiting Re-Cap issue (Mar)

FREE Favorite College Report!

Visit PREPSTAR ONLINE!
for HOT Recruiting News as it Happens!
www.prepstar.com

☑ YES, please send me your Recruiting Package and my Favorite College Report for only $69.95

Method of payment ☐ Check ☐ Visa/MC/AMX
CARD NO. _____ EXP. _____
NAME: _____
FAVORITE COLLEGE: _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____
PHONE # (_____) _____ E-MAIL _____
PREPSTAR • 22647 VENTURA BLVD., #359 • WOODLAND HILLS, CA 91364 LY

ORDER PREPSTAR TODAY!
Toll Free: 800-600-7518 Online: www.prepstar.com

SUPERPREP®

AMERICA'S RECRUITING MAGAZINE

Order magazines by phone 949.494.7866 or fax 949.497.3173

WWW.SUPERPREP.COM

"Allen Wallace is widely regarded as the leading prep football analyst." — *College Sports* magazine

HOT NATIONAL RECRUITING STUFF --- *SuperPrep*'s Allen Wallace provides info: ($1.99/1.79min) 1.900.860.8500 & 1.900.740.7737

SUBSCRIPTION REQUEST

Guaranteed prompt refund if dissatisfied.
JCW Publishing. All rights reserved.

☐ ***SUPERPREP*** — $65 ($70 with sales tax in Calif) --Aug '00 Pre-Season issue, Jan '2001 All-America Pre-Signing and March Letter-of-Intent. Price includes 1st class postage.

☐ ***SUPERFAX*** — $110 Wake-up to the latest recruiting info. It's in your FAX machine!!! 24 national recruiting reports (1 in Oct, 3 in Nov, 4 in Dec and 16 more thru signing day).

☐ ***SUPERPREP & SUPERFAX*** — $165 ($170 Calif) Get ALL the insider info--**at a discount.**

*All faxes transmitted in late evenings. Overseas rates available on application.

Enclosed is my check/money order for $_____payable to ***SUPERPREP***.

Charge my MC/VI/AX #_____ exp_____

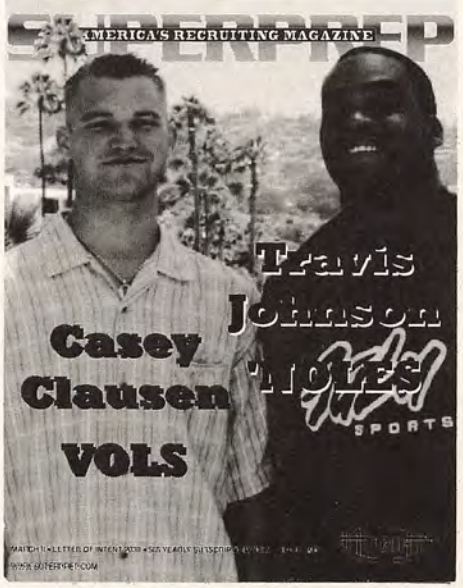
I am a new/existing subscriber. NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY_____ ST_____ ZIP_____

PHONE # (_____)_____ FAX # (_____)_____

SUPERPREP MAGAZINE, PO BOX 487, LAGUNA BEACH, CA 92652



NEW SUBSCRIBERS— MARCH '00 issue FREE!
Both magazine and SuperFax subs included

AIM HIGH
AIR FORCE
www.airforce.com

NATIONAL RECRUITING

101 for 2001 TOP HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

QUARTERBACKS

Joseph Addai	6-2	190	Houston-Sharpstown, TX
Aaron Alexander	6-4	180	Richmond-Henrico, VA
Brodie Croyle	6-3	200	Rainbow City-Westbrook Chr., AL
Owen Daniels	6-4	200	Naperville Central, IL
Justin Holland	6-4	185	Lakewood-Bear Creek, CO
Travis Jackson	6-4	210	Olathe South, KS
Matt Leinart	6-5	210	Santa Ana-Mater Dei, CA
Kyle Matter	6-3	190	Newhall-Hart, CA
Joe Mauer	6-4	210	St. Paul-Cretin-Durham, MN
Adrian McPherson	6-4	180	Bradenton-Southeast, FL
Casey Paus	6-4	200	New Lenox-Lincoln-Way, IL
Bryan Randall	6-2	195	Williamsburg-Bruton, VA
Don (D.J.) Shockley	6-0	180	Riverdale-North Clayton, GA
Matthew Stevenson	6-4	190	Memphis-Melrose, TN
Paul Troth	6-5	200	Charlotte-Vance, NC

RUNNING BACKS

Kelly Baraka	6-1	185	Portage-Northern, MI
Cedric Benson	5-11	200	Midland-Lee, TX
Brandon Brokaw	6-3	225	Pennington, NJ
Rikki Cook	6-1	235	Montclair, NJ
Jabari Davis	5-8	225	Tucker, GA
Maurice Hall	5-10	180	Columbus-Brookhaven, OH
Tramain Hall	5-10	185	Deerfield Beach, FL
Cedric Houston	6-0	200	Clarendon, AR
De'Arrius Howard	6-2	205	West Memphis, AR
Cory Jones	6-2	200	Seattle-Kennedy, WA
Kevin Jones	6-1	215	Springfield-Cardinal O'Hara, PA
Clifton McKoy	5-11	185	Lillington-Western Hartnett, NC
Damien Nash	5-11	185	St. Louis-Riverview Garden, MO
Lydell Ross	6-0	200	Tampa-Gaither, FL
Jeff Sanders	5-11	195	Jackson-Provine, MS
Seymore Shaw	6-0	200	Shawnee, OK
Eric Shelton	6-3	235	Lexington-Bryan Station, KY
Carnell Williams	6-0	195	Etowah, AL
Keldrick Williams	5-9	190	Montgomery-Lanier, AL
Monte Williams	5-8	175	Commerce, GA

WIDE RECEIVERS

Carlos Campbell	6-0	180	Hampton, VA
Angelo Chattams	5-11	180	Dayton-Chaminade-Jul'n, OH
Michael Collins	6-5	215	Commerce, GA
Roscoe Crosby	6-2	195	Union, SC
Mike Espy	6-0	175	Madison Central, MS
Fred Gibson	6-3	180	Waycross-Wareco, GA
Lynzell Jackson	6-3	175	Tempe Union, AZ
Jerome Janet	5-11	185	Tulsa-Union, OK
Earvin Johnson	6-4	190	Los Angeles-Cathedral, CA
Montrell Jones	6-2	190	Louisville-Male-KY
Tim Massaquoi	6-4	210	Allentown-Parkland, PA
Anthony Mix	6-4	210	Bay Minette-Baldwin County, AL

TIGHT ENDS

Kyle Ealey	6-7	255	Westchester-St. Joseph, IL
Erik Gil	6-6	230	Belle Vernon, PA
Abe Robinson	6-6	270	Houston-Jersey Village, TX

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Lorenzo Alexander	6-3	275	Berkeley-St. Mary's, CA
Collin Barker	6-9	300	Wortham, TX
Bob Clearly	6-7	275	Lake Elsinore-Temescal Canyon, CA
Blake Larsen	6-7	295	Atlantic, IA
Mark LeVoir	6-7	290	Eden Prairie, MN
Tyler Reed	6-5	305	Pittsburgh-Jefferson, PA
Dan Simelis	6-6	285	McKeesport-Montour, PA
Andrew Whitworth	6-8	300	West Monroe, LA
John Wilson	6-8	330	Daytona Beach-Mainland, FL

DEFENSIVE ENDS

Reggie Arden	6-5	225	Ironton, OH
Shaun Cody	6-5	240	Los Altos, CA
Mike Dollman	6-5	230	Pittsburgh-Penn Hills, PA
George Gause	6-4	235	Conway, SC
Zachary Giles	6-4	275	Marshfield, MA
Keith Lipka	6-4	260	Oak Creek, WI
Pat Massey	6-7	240	Cleveland-St. Ignatius, OH
Lionel Williams	6-4	240	Addison Trail, IL

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN

Titus Adams	6-4	275	Omaha-Creighton Prep, NE
James Burckhardt	6-5	325	Columbia-Long Reach, MD
Orien Harris	6-3	280	Newark, DE
Tommy Harris	6-3	300	Killeen-Ellison, TX
Anttaj Hawthorne	6-4	305	Hamden, CT
Marques Johnson	6-4	300	Athens-Clarke Central, GA
Jeff Littlejohn	6-3	285	Gaffney, SC
Charles Rush	6-3	275	Erie-Cathedral Prep, PA
Robert Taylor	6-4	300	Oak Creek, WI
Leon Williams	6-4	230	Brooklyn-Canarsie, NY

LINEBACKERS

Tony Alford	6-2	215	Miami-Southridge, FL
Chad Anderson	6-4	235	Canton-McKinley, OH
Chauncey Davis	6-2	225	Auburndale, FL
Joe Dipre	6-4	240	Erie-Cathedral Prep, PA
Joques Dumas	6-4	220	Asheboro, NC
Marquis Elmore	6-4	225	Folkston-Charlton Cty., GA
Brent Grover	6-4	220	Fort Thomas-Highlands, KY
Scott McClintock	6-3	225	Belle Vernon, PA
Lamarcus Rowell	6-4	220	Opelika, AL
Pierre Woods	6-6	225	Cleveland-Glenville, OH

DEFENSIVE BACKS

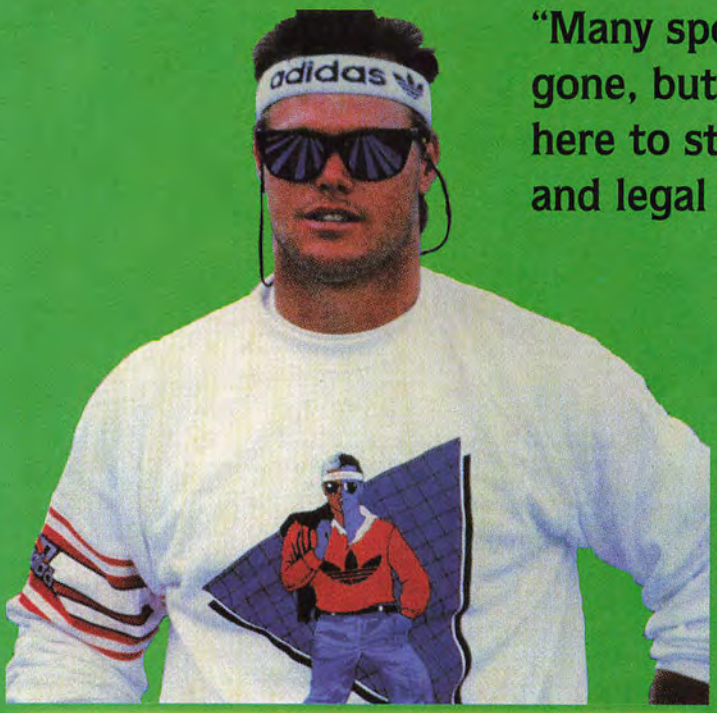
Brett Bell	6-0	185	Wheaton-Warrenville So., IL
Quintin Burrell	6-1	185	Decatur-S.W. DeKalb, GA
Jerome Carter	6-1	205	Lake City-Columbia, FL
Dustin Fox	6-0	185	Canton-Glen Oak, OH
Marlin Jackson	6-1	180	Sharon, PA
Derron Johnson	6-4	210	Memphis-Melrose, TN
Chuck Moore	6-4	215	Elk Grove, IL
Mike Robinson	6-2	210	Richmond-Varina, VA
Ernest Shazor	6-3	180	Detroit-King, MI
Craphonso Thorpe	6-2	180	Tallahassee-Lincoln, FL
P.J. Walton	6-0	190	Woodbridge-Hylton, VA
Matt Ware	6-4	195	Los Angeles-Loyola, CA
Reggie Williams	6-4	215	Tacoma Lakes, WA
Tymere Zimmerman	6-3	190	Bennettsville-Marlboro Cty., SC

English Sports Betting

1-800-TELEBET

8 3 5 3 2 3 8

Football's a SERIOUS game



"Many sportsbooks have come and gone, but English Sports Betting is here to stay!! Play with the legitimate and legal leader in the industry, ESB!"

Most football wagers around!!

- Sides, totals and moneyline wagering
- Futures, parlay, teaser and fantasy cards
- Best parlay odds in the WORLD

2-team parlay	13-5
3-team parlay	6.5-1
4-team parlay	11-1

Visit our website at www.telebet.com

Former NFL quarterback and College Football Hall of Famer Jim McMahon is a proud ESB supporter and representative.

English Sports Betting delivers the confidence and security you are looking for in a sportsbook.

Here are a few reasons why English Sports Betting is #1:

- Payouts in 24-48 hours guaranteed
- Rated by Dun & Bradstreet
- Audited by a top-5 accounting firm
- Since 1991, Our 8th football season
- Licensed to operate in Ireland & Jamaica

CALL NOW

ESB — THE PLAYERS BEST BET

for your FREE brochure, video & cigar

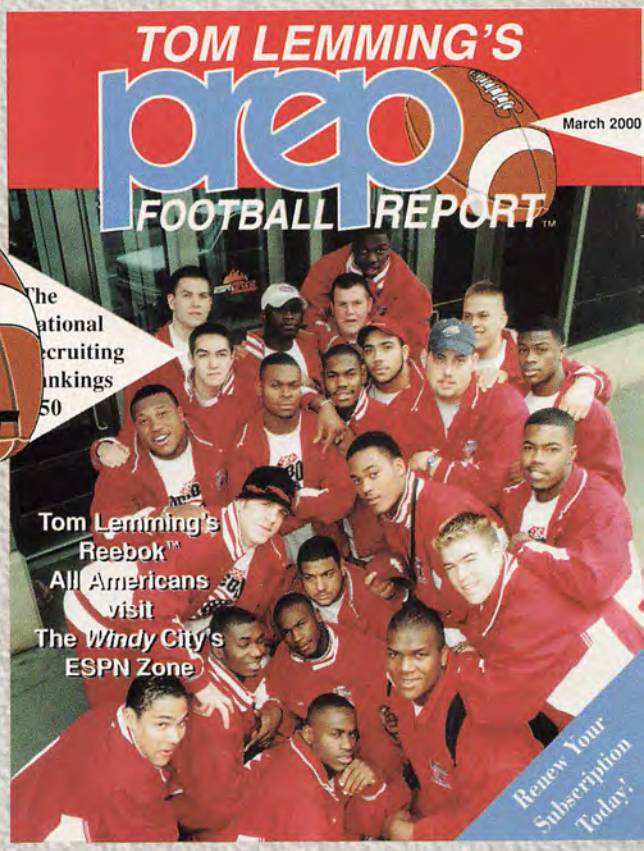
"Tell them Jim McMahon sent you and receive a FREE WAGER!"

No obligation - No purchase necessary

Must be 21 years of age -- International Calls 1-876-953-6233 -- U.S. Alternate 1-800-55-WAGER

ENJOY!

TOM LEMMING'S prep FOOTBALL REPORT™


TOM LEMMING'S
prep
FOOTBALL REPORT™
March 2000
The National Recruiting Rankings Top 50
Tom Lemming's Reebok™ All Americans visit The Windy City's ESPN Zone
Renew Your Subscription Today!

NOW IN IT'S 21st YEAR

Pre-Season Issue 1 (Aug. 15th)
A complete profile of the top 1,000 players nationally with complete biographies and photos of the top players.

Post-Season Issue 2 (Mid Jan.)
Lists the All-American and All-Area Teams chosen by the nation's top college coaches and a look at the nation's top 1,000 prep players and their senior season plus official visits.

Wrap-Up Issue 3 (March 1st)
Comprehensive profiles of the top 50 recruiting classes and rankings of the nation's top players

5 Newsletters – (April, June, Oct., Nov. & Dec.)
Latest information on the top 500 players. Late Commitments–Rising Players & Stats–Leanings & Visits.

&

TOM LEMMING'S prep FOOTBALL™ HOTLINE!

ONLY $1.79 PER MINUTE ALL YEAR LONG!

1-900-860-9888

☑ **Yes**, Sign me up! to Tom Lemming's prep Football Report.

#1 $55 for 3 issues (all mailed 1st class)
#2 $30 for 5 Newsletters

Name_____
Address_____
City/State/Zip_____

Make check or money order payable to:
Tom Lemming
P.O. Box 59113
Schaumburg, IL 60159

☐ OPTION 1 $55
☐ OPTION 1 & 2 $85
SUBSCRIBE AND ENJOY!

THE NUMBER ONE PREP FOOTBALL AUTHORITY IN THE COUNTRY

ACC RECRUITING

AIM HIGH
AIR FORCE
www.airforce.com

GEORGIA TECH A SURGING PRESENCE IN THE SOUTH

FLORIDA STATE

Once again the Seminoles came on strong at the very end to finish with a top five class. Recently they have been doing more recruiting out-of-state than in-state and it is sure paying off in a big way. This recruiting season they signed national Defensive Player of the Year **Travis Johnson**, a 6-4, 260-pound DL from Sherman Oaks, CA; super star RB **Greg Jones** of Beaufort, SC, a 6-1, 230-pounder who has rushed for close to 3,000 yards and 35 TDs over the past two years; one of the nation's top five signal-callers in **Chris Rix** of Rancho Santa Margarita, CA; one of the nation's premier QBs of 1998 **Fabian Walker** of Americus, GA; OL **Ray Willis** (6-6, 260) of Angleton, TX, one of that state's top three OL prospects; WR **Devard Darling** and his twin brother LB **DeVaughn Darling** of Houston, TX; and OL **Bobby Meeks** (6-3, 285) of Aldine, TX.

The Seminoles not only signed **Greg Jones** from South Carolina, but also superstar WR **Michael Boulware** (6-3, 200) of Columbia, who is also one of the nation's premier LB prospects. Another huge catch was All-Everything SS **Yohance Buchanan** of Atlanta, GA, a superior defender with great strength, outstanding anticipation and great awareness. Another major out-of-state catch was the top wide receiver in the junior college ranks, **Jovan Walker** of Jones JC, MS. Although their out-of-state was extremely impressive, their in-state haul was just as good. Sunshine state natives heading to Tallahassee will be the state's most versatile player TE-LB **Chad Mascoe** of Kissimmee who has played QB, TE, WR, LB and DB in high school; the country's top CB prospect **Bryant McFadden** of Hollywood; All-Everything LB **Eric Moore** (6-5, 230) of Pahokee; and DB **Leroy Smith** of Quincy. Their out-of-state recruiting was by design this year and the Seminoles appear to be in the hunt for major talent from California to New Jersey.

Headliner: DL Travis Johnson (6-4, 260) of Sherman Oaks, CA, is the nation's premier pass rusher with explosive moves to the ball, great strength and outstanding balance and body control. Last season, he recorded 17 QB sacks and three interceptions returning one of the picks for 71 yards and a TD. The FSU coaches expect Travis to contribute right away.

Sleeper: It was very difficult to find a sleeper in this class, but if you had to pick one it should be DE **Charles Howard** (6-3, 215) of Lake Butler, FL, an extremely quick pass rusher, who once he gains weight and strength, should become a dominant college player.

Bottom Line: The number of impact players that FSU signs on a year-to-year basis is amazing. Heading into the 2000 season, once again, there is no school in the country that has as much talent as Florida State. They don't go into a recruiting season having to fill needs since there are no glaring needs at any position. They just reload and expect these highly-rated freshmen to contribute down the line.

GEORGIA TECH

Last year Georgia Tech put together a very impressive national class, but it does not compare to this season's recruiting class. This time they had a "lights-out" year with the majority of the top prospects being home-grown. Yes, their in-state haul was quite impressive. Once you look at the list of in-state names signing with Georgia Tech, you can understand why so many people have been praising this class as one of the school's very best. Local standouts heading to Atlanta are All-Everything LB **Hobie Holiday**, a 6-4, 230-pounder from Warner Robins; huge FB **Derrick Mincey** (6-1, 275) of Lyons; All-State OL **Jeremy Phillips** (6-7, 300) of Watkinsville; LB **Daryl Smith** (6-3, 225) of Albany, who recorded 115 tackles and five QB sacks in '99; blue chip TE-DE **Darius Williams** (6-6, 230) of Clarkston, considered to be one of the top pass rushers in the South; hard-hitting, aggressive DB **Tony Hollings** of Jeffersonville and super quick LB **Keyron Fox** (6-4, 220) of Atlanta. The state of Florida also contributed heavily to this super class by sending north such blue chippers as QB **Brandon Sumner** (6-3, 220) of Daytona Beach, a superior athlete who passed for 1,770 yards and 18 TDs in '99; DB **Nate Curry** of Miami, who turned down offers from Miami and Notre Dame; LB **Jon Jackson** of Jacksonville; super quick DE **Keron Koon** (6-4, 270) of Miramar, who selected Georgia Tech over Wisconsin and Florida; and DL **Chirod Williams** (6-4, 235) of Jacksonville.

FRESHMEN OF INFLUENCE

POS	NAME	HT	WT	HOMETOWN	COLLEGE
QB	Aaron Alston	6-4	200	Durham, NC	North Carolina
OL	Alex Barron	6-7	300	Orangeburg, SC	Florida State
LB	Michael Boulware	6-2	200	Columbia, SC	Florida State
LB	Brian Brownlee	6-3	220	Abbeville, SC	South Carolina
OL	Jon Dunn	6-7	310	Virginia Beach, VA	Virginia Tech
QB	Darian Durant	6-1	212	Florence, SC	North Carolina
LB	Clarence Gaddy	6-4	210	Lillington, NC	North Carolina
OL	Jason Harris	6-6	338	Greenville, SC	South Carolina
RB	Greg Jones	6-1	230	Beaufort, SC	Florida State
RB	Keith Kelly	6-0	213	Walterboro, SC	Clemson
TE	Jason Lallis	6-3	233	Hyattsville, MD	Virginia Tech
TE	Bradshaw Littlejohn	6-4	235	Gaffney, SC	Michigan State
WR	Reggie Love	6-5	210	Charlotte, NC	Duke
LB	Ray Mann	6-2	227	Hampton, VA	Virginia
TE	Todd McClinton	6-5	250	Columbia, SC	Clemson
DL	Erik Noll	6-5	275	Gaithersburg, MD	Penn State
DB	O.J. Owens	6-1	190	New London, NC	Tennessee
RB	Chris Perry	6-2	215	Fork Union, VA	Michigan
WR	Ron Rodamer	6-4	190	Morgantown, WV	Notre Dame
DL	Jonas Seawright	6-6	253	Orangeburg, SC	North Carolina
LB	Darrion Scott	6-2	230	Charleston, WV	Ohio State
WR	Maurice Shanks	6-4	172	Hampton, VA	Maryland
RB	Gerald Smith	5-11	178	Ellicott City, MD	Penn State
OL	Donnell Washington	6-7	282	Beaufort, SC	Clemson
RB	Andre Williams	6-0	210	Northern Durham, NC	North Carolina

ACC RECRUITING

Other signees of note were DL **Alfred Malone** (6-4, 240) of Frisco City, AL, a very talented defender who was somewhat overlooked because of the heavy load of great DL prospects in Alabama this year; RB **Jimmy Dixon**, a super productive All-Stater from Arlington, TX; All-East TE **J.P. Foschi** (6-5, 245) of Long Island, NY; and All-Chicago DB **Jon Cox**.

Headliner: QB Brandon Sumner of Daytona Beach is not only considered an excellent passer, but also an outstanding runner. He accounted for close to 3,000 total yards in offense this past season.

Sleeper: RB Jimmy Dixon (6-2, 210) of Arlington, TX, may have been named All-State, but was overlooked by the majority of Big XII schools.

Bottom Line: Never before in my recollection have the Yellow Jackets signed such an athletic and productive class. Their recruiting presence can be felt throughout the South.

NORTH CAROLINA

Coach Carl Torbush did an outstanding job of landing just about every top in-state player the Tar Heels went after. It was not a particularly good year for talent in the state of North Carolina, but what blue chippers there were, by signing day were heading towards Chapel Hill. That group includes All-Everything RB **Andre Williams** of Durham; potential super QB **Aaron Alston** of Durham; DB **Bryant Macklin** of Elm City; OL **Skip Seagraves** (6-5, 250) of Burlington; DL **Jermicus Banks** (6-5, 235) of Raleigh; TE **Madison Hedgecock** of Kernersville; and All-Atlantic Coast LB **Clarence Gaddy** of Bunn. The Tar Heels out-of-state haul was just as impressive. QB **Darian Durant** of Florence, SC, is a two-time All-State signal-caller who is a superior ball-handler with a live arm and great anticipation. Another great catch was super fast RB **Brandon Russell** of Atlanta, a talented back who averaged over eight yards per carry in '99. They are also excited about **Isaac Montgomery** (6-5, 285) of Princeton, WV, a super strong defender with quick feet and great balance and agility. Another big out-of-state catch was OL **Justin Barton**, a 6-6, 300-pounder from Voorhees, NJ, who spurned offers from Boston College, Syracuse and Clemson. LB **Kitwana Jones** (6-0, 220) of Fork Union, VA, is a fifth year prep star with unusual quickness to the ball.

Headliner: RB Andre Williams (6-0, 215) of Durham, NC, rushed for 2,087 yards and 35 TDs in '99 displaying deceptive speed, great strength and good hands.

Sleeper: QB Aaron Alston (6-4, 210) of Durham is a tall, strong-armed signal-caller with great potential. Although he is not as accomplished as some of the other big-time QB prospects, Aaron certainly has the size, arm strength and athletic ability to make it big at the next level.

Bottom Line: Because of the lack of talent in the state of North Carolina in '99, the Tar Heels' game plan was to sign the blue chip athletes that the state did produce and follow it up with an outstanding effort throughout the rest of the South. That game plan worked to perfection.

CLEMSON

With only 14 signees, the Tigers are bringing in one of the smallest recruiting classes in the nation. However, the good news is coach Tommy Bowden is bringing in quite a few impact players. That impressive list includes RB **Keith Kelly** of Walterboro, SC; TE **Todd McClinton**, a 6-6, 250-pounder from Columbia; DL **Donnell Washington** (6-6, 270) of Beaufort; WR **Derrick Hamilton** of Dillon; and DB **Ryan Hemby** of Orangeburg. The Tigers are also excited about Georgia QB **Brian Carr** of Conyers, a signal-caller with quick feet and a live arm; DB **Ronny Dulusme** of Naples, FL, a good-sized FS with great range and junior college All-American OL **Derrick Brantley** of Southwest Mississippi JC, a tackle who should make an immediate impression. Since the Tigers had so few scholarships, they had to be very careful on who they offered. It was imperative that they sign a couple of running backs, which they did, and also get help at the DB and OL positions.

Headliner: RB Keith Kelly is a 6-0, 215-pounder from Walterboro, SC, with great strength, excellent quickness and outstanding balance. He averaged 7.6 yards per carry during his high school career and was considered to be one of the top three running back prospects in the Atlantic Coast region.

Sleeper: DB Ryan Hemby (5-10, 175) of Orangeburg Wilkinson, SC, was one of four major college prospects on the Wilkinson team this year. As far as the press was concerned, he took a back seat to teammates Alex Barron, an FSU recruit, and Jonas Seawright, a North Carolina recruit. Talent-wise, Hemby is right up there with the other two blue chippers. He's an extremely good pass defender with excellent one-on-one skills. Blessed with a 37-inch vertical jump, he also shows remarkable recovery speed.

Bottom Line: With limited scholarships, the Tigers went after the best athletes rather than trying to fill needs. The plan seems to have worked with all 14 signees showing the potential to be impact college players.

VIRGINIA

This is an outstanding class that coach George Welsh and his excellent recruiting staff are bringing to Charlottesville. They've recruited their needs at just about every position and have also signed several impact players. In-state, Virginia landed All-Everything LB **Ray Mann** of Hampton, a 6-2, 215-pound linebacker with great speed and instincts who recorded over 100 tackles each of the past three seasons; quarterback **Bill Schweitzer**, a 6-3, 200-pounder from Alexandria; and TE **Marcus Hardy** of Blackstone. They also used their contacts at Fork Union Military Academy in Virginia to land such prep school notables as WR **Almondo Curry**; DL **Reggie Hayes**, a 6-3, 250-pounder; former high school All-American RB **Art Thomas**, a 6-3, 205-pound back from Pennsylvania; DB **Jamaine Winborne**; and DL **Zac Yarbrough**, a 6-4, 240-pounder with excellent speed and great strength. From Pennsylvania comes one of the nation's premier RB prospects **Marquis Weeks** of Berwyn; super fast DB **Hikee Johnson** of North Wales; and LB **Rick Bedesem** (6-2, 220) from Holland.

The Cavaliers' recruiting staff went out looking for speed and they appear to have gotten it not only with the above mentioned players, but also with super fast WR **Jeremiah Chambliss** of St. Petersburg, FL; hard hitting and instinctive DB **Mark Dorsey** of Jacksonville who turned down Notre Dame and Georgia Tech for Virginia; LB **Brandon Isaiah**, a sleeper from Winston-Salem, NC; TB **Michael McGrew** of Birmingham, AL; and two-way tackle **Tom Howell** (6-4, 260) of Sarasota, FL.

Headliner: RB Marquis Weeks, a 5-11, 195-pound back with 4.4 speed from Berwyn Conestoga, PA. He is coming out of high school with as much fanfare as Heisman candidate Tom Jones. Marquis possesses outstanding power and great moves.

Sleeper: QB Billy Schweitzer (6-3, 200) of Alexandria Stephens, VA, signed with the Cavaliers with little fanfare. However, scouts in the know consider this young man a potential impact player at the QB position. He possesses great arm strength, deceptive speed and a quick release.

Bottom Line: The coaching staff at Virginia does one of the best jobs in the country when it comes to scouting and evaluating prep talent. This year appears to be no exception with several of the Cavaliers' rivals praising the athletic ability of their 21 recruits.

MARYLAND

Maryland certainly did a good job down the stretch landing several Atlantic Coast notables such as All-Everything WR **Maurice Shanks** of Hampton, VA, who caught 28 passes for 435 yards and six TDs in '99 and who also picked off six passes and totaled 66 tackles at FS; All-New Jersey DE **Kevin Eli** (6-4, 230) of Deptford, an extremely quick-footed and agile defender

ACC RECRUITING

who totaled 16 QB sacks in '99; DL **Cole Boykin** of Jersey City, NJ, a sleeper who gets great leverage and is very determined; OL **C.J. Brooks** (6-5, 300) of Morrow, GA; OL **Kyle Schmitt** (6-5, 280) of Latrobe, PA; one of the top four prospects in western PA; and reliable WR **Ike Roberts** of Tottenville, NY. The Terrapins also did an outstanding job in-state securing the signatures of All-State QB **Chris Kelley** of Germantown and huge OL prospects **Reggie Kemp** (6-4, 300) of Hyattsville and **Lou Lombardo** (6-6, 280) of Baltimore. They are also excited about FB **James Lynch** of Washington, DC, a 250-pounder who excels in short yardage situations.

Headliner: WR Maurice Shanks (6-4, 175) of Hampton Phoebus, VA, is a two-time All-State receiver with 4.5 speed who turned down Clemson, Northwestern, Wisconsin and Virginia Tech to become a Terrapin.

Sleeper: LB Kevin Eli (6-4, 230) of Deptford, NJ, was an unknown name heading into the '99 season, but after all was said and done, he became one of the most recruited pass rushers in the East.

Bottom Line: The Terrapins really needed a good class this recruiting season after two sub-par years in '98 and '99. Well, after all the smoke cleared, it certainly looks like they accomplished all of their goals. They signed the QBs, WRs, OLs and DLs that were sorely needed.

DUKE

The Blue Devils did a great job in-state this year landing such North Carolina notables as WR **Reggie Love** of Charlotte; DB **Terrell Smith** of Wingate; DL **Drew Ciepeielinski** of Matthews; and potential super DL **Cory Broadmax** (6-4, 250) of Raleigh. A big reason why the Blue Devils were so successful this recruiting campaign was because of the great job they did in the East, landing such heavily-recruited stars as QB **Chris Wispelwey** of Pompton Plains, NJ; WR **Khary Sharpe** of Voorhees, NJ; QB **Darryl Scott** (6-3, 205) of Voorhees, NJ; DL **Joe Boniewicz** (6-4, 250) of Dunmore, PA; and OL **Christian Mitchell** (6-6, 300) of Amherst, NY. A couple of other major signees were super swift WR **Johnnie Mullins** of Belle Glades, FL, a 4.4 burner with terrific hands; WR **Jeremy Battier**, the younger brother of Duke roundball standout Shane Battier (Jeremy is a 6-4, 187-pounder with great hands and deceptive speed); and one of the South's finest OL prospects **Pat Worsham**, a 6-5, 290-pounder from Daytona Beach, who turned down Florida and Notre Dame for Duke.

Headliner: WR Reggie Love (6-5, 210) from Charlotte, NC, is a big target with deceptive speed and great hands. He is also a standout basketball prospect who will play both sports for the Blue Devils. Last season Reggie caught 40 passes for 900 yards and nine TDs including a 79-yarder.

Sleeper: LB Cory Broadmax (6-4, 250) from Raleigh played OLB in high school, but should become a dominant pass rusher at the DE position in college. During his prep career, Cory averaged eight tackles per game and was credited with 11 QB sacks in '99.

Bottom Line: This is Duke's best class in years. They really helped themselves at the QB, WR, OL, DL and LB positions. The Blue Devils lack of great speed on defense should be rectified once this group of defenders feels comfortable in college ball.

WAKE FOREST

The Demon Deacons battled tooth and nail for several of the area's blue chip players this recruiting season, and even though they came in second on many of them, they still managed to sign their share of potential stars. Offensively they entered this recruiting campaign in search of speedy wide receivers and hard-running running backs and came up with WR **Jason Anderson** of Charlotte; RB **Caron Bracy** of Jacksonville; RB **Warren Braxton** of Madison Heights, VA; RB **Mike Hamlar** (6-2, 200) of Roanoke, VA, who has great size and terrific vision; RB **Trevor Harris** (6-2, 210) of St. Petersburg, FL; super talented RB **Fred Staton** of West Charlotte, NC; and **Jeff Whitaker** (5-11, 180) of Ponte Vedra Beach, FL.

They were also in need of big men up front and are excited about the signing of **Brandon Drury** (6-4, 275) of Folkston, GA; **Rod Eason** (6-6, 280) of Jacksonville, one of the top OL prospects in the state of Florida; **Blake Lingruen** (6-4, 270) of Liberty Center, OH; **Brad Palmer** (6-3, 280) of Rochester, NY; **Brian Tekampe** (6-5, 270) of Woodbridge; and **Brian Woychik** (6-6, 290) of Youngstown, OH, an All-Northeast Ohio selection. The Demon Deacons were also in major need of defensive line help and they got it in a big way by signing **Joel Salcich** (6-4, 250) of Annapolis, MD; **R.D. Montgomery** (6-6, 235) of Wilmington, NC, a super talent at both TE and DE, who averaged over 18 yards per catch in '99; **Tyson Clabo** (6-6, 295) of Knoxville, TN, a two-way standout at tackle who has quick feet and great technique; and **Jacob Petty** (6-5, 240) of St. Augustine, FL. A couple of other major defensive additions were LB **Cardell Richardson** (6-2, 240) of Centreville, VA, and DB **Quinton Williams** (6-2, 185) of Goldsboro, NC.

Headliner: RB Fred Staton (6-0, 200) of West Charlotte, NC, is a two-time All-State selection and was considered to be one of the top three running back prospects in the Atlantic Coast region. He's a powerful back with great vision and elusive moves.

Sleeper: RB Caron Bracy (6-0, 195) of Jacksonville Trinity Christian who was overshadowed by several other blue chip teammates, but had a great year on both offense and defense in '99. He's considered to be the hardest hitting defender in his conference and has played both LB and DB on defense.

Bottom Line: Having to compete against North Carolina, North Carolina State and Duke in a relatively small recruiting area has been extremely difficult for the Demon Deacons. However, this year they took a major step forward and had more than a little success recruiting against the other three in-state teams. There was a major need for speedy defensive players and Wake Forest certainly signed their share.

N.C. STATE

The Wolfpack's recruiting was most definitely hurt with the coaching change coming at a very inopportune time. However, they rebounded well and saved what could have been a disaster into a positive recruiting year. This class is led by All-Everything DL **Ricky Fowler** (6-2, 290) of Columbus, GA; LB **Chance Moyer** (6-4, 250) of Tuscaloosa, AL; LB **Roger Pollard** (6-1, 200) of Miami, FL; DL **Steven Williams** (6-4, 250) of Wilson, NC; DB **Victor Stephens** of Houston, TX; **Chip Thomas** (6-2, 220) of Roxboro, NC; and LB **Corrie Dawson** (6-3, 225) of Birmingham, AL. Those seven players will serve as the foundation for the Wolfpack defense over the next four years. They did not have as much success signing blue chip athletes on offense, although QB **Phil Rivers** (6-5, 215) of Athens, AL, is a good one. They are also excited about **William Johnson**, a 6-1, 190-pound WR/DB from Miami, FL, and WR **Andy Bertrand** of Hialeah, FL.

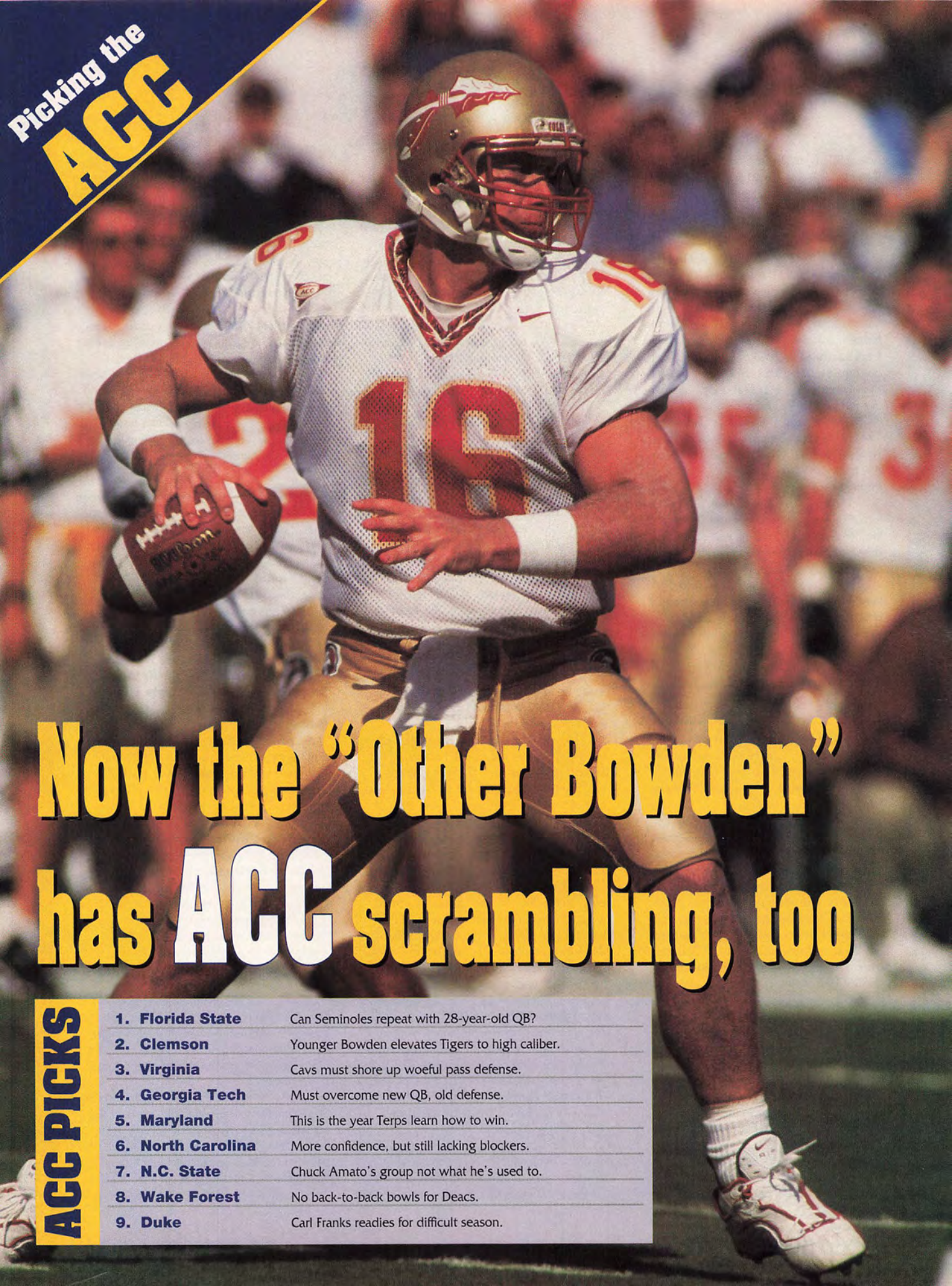
Headliner: DL Ricky Fowler (6-2, 290) of Columbus, GA, is an exceptionally quick-footed and strong DT who can stop the run as well as any prospect in the South. Constantly triple-teamed, he still was able to record over 80 tackles and 20 tackles for loss in '99.

Sleeper: WR William Johnson of Miami Killian is a 6-1, 190-pounder with 4.4 speed who earned All-Dade County honors at both WR and DB in '99. He turned down Ohio State, Clemson and Syracuse to join the Wolfpack.

Bottom Line: This new North Carolina State staff did not have enough time to come up with a class to rival the top schools in the ACC. However, with one full year under their belts, you can bet by next February they will have become a recruiting force in the ACC.

— By Tom Lemming/Prep Football Report

Picking the ACC



Now the "Other Bowden" has ACC scrambling, too

ACC PICKS

1.	**Florida State**	Can Seminoles repeat with 28-year-old QB?
2.	**Clemson**	Younger Bowden elevates Tigers to high caliber.
3.	**Virginia**	Cavs must shore up woeful pass defense.
4.	**Georgia Tech**	Must overcome new QB, old defense.
5.	**Maryland**	This is the year Terps learn how to win.
6.	**North Carolina**	More confidence, but still lacking blockers.
7.	**N.C. State**	Chuck Amato's group not what he's used to.
8.	**Wake Forest**	No back-to-back bowls for Deacs.
9.	**Duke**	Carl Franks readies for difficult season.

The hunt began in earnest in February, shortly after the Atlantic Coast Conference's nine coaches — all in the same job from the season before — polished off their recruiting.

Quietly, in darkened offices and also in the dark that their peers were doing the same thing, the football CEOs pulled out videotape of Clemson.

Where, they wondered, did Tommy Bowden hide his smoke and mirrors? How did he field a bowl team behind a quarterback who didn't pass very well and was hurt much of the time? And what, they wonder, will they do now that he has almost every key ingredient returning?

"There's returning talent and there's returning talent," Bowden says. "The good news is you got everybody back. Sometimes that's the bad news, too."

Don't believe it in this case. Bowden doesn't. He races into his second season at Clemson secure in the knowledge that his surprisingly successful 6-6 freshman season drew almost as much attention nationally as his 12-0 campaign at Tulane did in 1998.

What Bowden doesn't know — or maybe he does — is that as the ACC heads toward its golden anniversary season of 2002, he has given the league another program over which rivals can obsess. Or, at the very least, study intently.

While defending national champion Florida State again is the consensus pick to win the ACC for a record ninth season (the entire span of the Seminoles' conference membership), there is no clear-cut winner about whom FSU's chief challenger will be in 2000.

Virginia is the second-most consistent ACC program over the past decade, yet George Welsh has not uncovered the championship-caliber quarterback that he needed to build powerhouse teams in the early 1990s.

North Carolina, a Top 10 program in Mack Brown's final two seasons, appears ready to grow again following Carl Torbush's staff reorganization. And yet the Tar Heels have a talented, but health-plagued quarterback and continued needs at tailback.

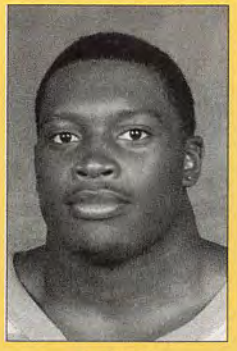
Georgia Tech? Just how do you replace Joe Hamilton?

The popular pick, in case you haven't guessed, is Clemson.

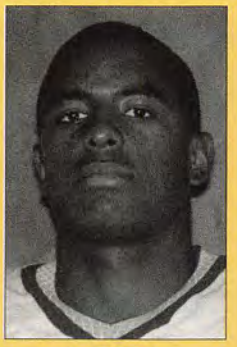
"Tommy's got a lot of talent — a lot of talent back — and he knows what he's doing with it," new North Carolina State

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER
Chris Weinke, QB, Florida St.

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF YEAR
LaMont Jordan, RB, Maryland



DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF YEAR
Keith Adams, LB, Clemson



NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR
Javon Walker, WR, Florida St.

LINDY'S 2000 ALL-ACC TEAM

OFFENSE — First Team

QB	Chris Weinke	Sr.	6-5	240	FSU
RB	LaMont Jordan	Sr.	5-1	219	Maryland
RB	Travis Minor	Sr.	6-1	190	FSU
WR	Kelly Campbell	Jr.	5-11	170	Georgia Tech
WR	Rod Gardner	Sr.	6-4	215	Clemson
TE	Alge Crumpler	Sr.	6-3	270	N. Carolina
C	Melvin Fowler	Jr.	6-3	287	Maryland
OL	Josh Lawson	Jr.	6-5	302	Virginia
OL	Tarlos Thomas	Sr.	6-5	320	FSU
OL	Chris Brown	Sr.	6-6	315	Georgia Tech
OL	Jarvis Borum	Sr.	6-7	341	NC State
AP	Kory Bailey	Jr.	6-1	190	N. Carolina
PK	Brian Kopka	Sr.	5-7	174	Maryland

DEFENSE — First Team

DL	Jamal Reynolds	Sr.	6-4	254	FSU
DL	Terry Jolly	Sr.	6-2	290	Clemson
DL	Monsanto Pope	Jr.	6-4	283	Virginia
DL	Julius Peppers	So.	6-6	280	N. Carolina
LB	Keith Adams	Jr.	5-11	220	Clemson
LB	Brandon Spoon	Jr.	6-2	240	N. Carolina
LB	Byron Thweatt	Sr.	6-2	233	Virginia
DB	Robert Carswell	Sr.	6-0	215	Clemson
DB	B. Greenwood	Jr.	6-2	185	N. Carolina
DB	Chris Hope	Jr.	6-2	195	FSU
DB	Derrick Gibson	Sr.	6-2	207	FSU
P	Keith Cottrell	Sr.	6-4	205	FSU

OFFENSE — Second Team

QB	Ronald Curry	Jr.	6-2	200	N. Carolina
RB	Antwoine Womack	Jr.	5-11	218	Virginia
RB	Ray Robinson	Jr.	5-10	202	NC State
WR	Kevin Coffey	Sr.	6-4	200	Virginia
WR	Anquan Boldin	So.	6-2	200	FSU
TE	Ben Watson	So.	6-3	250	Duke
C	Kyle Young	Jr.	6-3	270	Clemson
OL	Brent Key	Sr.	6-4	280	Georgia Tech
OL	Justin Amman	Sr.	6-4	300	FSU
OL	Brett Williams	So.	6-6	315	FSU
OL	Akil Smith	Jr.	6-4	280	Clemson
AP	Mike Waddell	So.	5-11	170	N. Carolina
PK	Tony Lazzara	So.	5-9	185	Clemson

DEFENSE — Second Team

DL	Roland Seymour	Sr	6-4	264	FSU
DL	Charles Hill	Jr.	6-2	283	Maryland
DL	Bryan Ray	Sr.	6-3	260	Wake Forest
DL	Nate Krill	Sr.	6-8	260	Duke
LB	Brian Allen	Sr.	6-2	225	FSU
LB	Recardo Wimbush	So.	6-1	218	Georgia Tech
LB	Aaron Thompson	Jr.	6-1	233	Maryland
DB	Clevan Thomas	Sr.	6-0	175	FSU
DB	Alex Ardley	Jr.	5-10	170	Clemson
DB	Shawn Forte	Sr.	6-0	201	Maryland
DB	Adrian Wilson	Jr.	6-3	212	NC State
P	Brooks Barnard	So.	6-2	183	Maryland

coach Chuck Amato said.

"Clemson's got key guys back," North Carolina coach Carl Torbush said, "and some guys that are new are better than some of those guys they lost."

The Tigers return 17 starters (eight on each side of the ball and a kicker) and a handful of star-quality players: linebacker Keith Adams, safety Robert Carswell, receiver Rod Gardner and tailback Travis Zachery. Woody Dantzler takes over for Brandon Streeter in an offense designed to spread defenses with more deep passes and a more-mobile quarterback.

Given this philosophy, Danztler, if he stays healthy, could lead the ACC in passing (although FSU's Chris Weinke might have something to say about that).

And if this lineup weren't enough for Bowden's encore, his schedule helps. Seven of 11 games are in Death Valley.

Ah, but there's a cynic in every crowd.

"Everybody talks about Clemson, but I'm not all that sold on Clemson yet," Georgia Tech coach George O'Leary said. "Now everybody has a lot of film on them. Nobody really had that last year, especially early on. I think the jury's still out."

Likewise, Bowden, having learned at the foot of the public relations master, father Bobby at Florida State, is well into his not-so-fast routine.

"Regardless of what we did last year, you have to understand two years ago Clemson won two Division I-A games," he said. "The quality of depth is the key. You watch Florida State play and they roll a lot of good guys in. To be successful in I-A football you have to have the quality of depth because of injuries, discipline and eligibility. A year-and-a-half into the program — we didn't have a guy drafted this year — we're still trying to find that.

"My job, this year, every year, is to show my guys where we're headed. But what I tell you and what I tell them behind closed doors is different. That's why we close the doors."

In the ACC, the search continues for the next Clemson, the next upstart.

Don't be surprised if it's Maryland. Even Terrapins coach Ron Vanderlinden agrees. Vanderlinden witnessed first-hand the rebuilding jobs that Bill McCartney (Colorado) and Gary Barnett (Northwestern) accomplished.

"Everybody is still chasing Florida State, and after that it's tough," said Vanderlinden, who is 10-23 in three seasons at College Park. "But here I see a growing confidence from our players and our fans. We're not quite out of the woods yet. We might be one more year before we're out of the woods. We were almost there a year ago and didn't quite make it.

"What I learned at Colorado and Northwestern is you have to build a program inside-out. You have to have a tough, hard-nosed team before you can become a consistent winner. We have become that at Maryland. Now the next step is to become a more balanced attack."

Under Vanderlinden, the Terps have risen from last in the ACC in rushing to first. Improving the passing game, probably with two-sport athlete Calvin McCall pulling the trigger, is the next item on Vanderlinden's checklist. Maryland was ninth (last) in the ACC in passing efficiency and seventh in passing offense last year.

It's no surprise that offensive coordinator Bob Heffner spent time in Corvallis, Ore., in the spring, culling notes from Oregon State's revitalized passing attack.

"We're better at quarterback than we've ever been," Vanderlinden

TOP 10 TALENT

1.	LAMONT JORDAN	TB	Maryland	Sr.	Could finish in top 10 in career NCAA I-A rushers.
2.	JAMAL REYNOLDS	DE	Florida St.	Sr.	Latest Seminole pass-rusher has a great first step.
3.	ROBERT CARSWELL	FS	Clemson	Sr.	Maybe the best in Clemson's secondary since Terry Kinnard.
4.	BYRON THWEATT	LB	Virginia	Sr.	Has started every game in three years for George Welsh.
5.	TRAVIS MINOR	TB	Florida St.	Sr.	Has always been overshadowed by passers, receivers.
6.	DERRICK GIBSON	S	Florida St.	Sr.	Athleticism and nose for the ball make him hard to back up.
7.	KELLY CAMPBELL	WR	Georgia Tech	Jr.	Jackets' home run threat averaged 16 ypc in '99.
8.	ROD GARDNER	WR	Clemson	Sr.	Tall (6-3) receiver outmatches shorter cornerbacks.
9.	MICHAEL WADDELL	CB	N. Carolina	So.	On the rise, could eventually make people forget Dre' Bly.
10.	ANTWOINE WOMACK	TB	Virginia	Jr.	Legal questions may continue to dog this bruising runner.

THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST

TEAM	MVP	EMERGING STAR	TOP NEWCOMER	UNSUNG HERO
CLEMSON	LB Keith Adams	WR Rod Gardner	CB Kevin Johnson	OG T.J. Watkins
DUKE	QB Bobby Campbell	TE Ben Watson	CB D'Juan O'Donald	DE Nate Krill
FLORIDA STATE	QB Chris Weinke	S Chris Hope	LB Kendyll Pope	OT Brett Williams
GEORGIA TECH	WR Kelly Campbell	P Dan Dyke	LB Matt Miller	DB Jon Muyres
MARYLAND	TB LaMont Jordan	LB Aaron Thompson	CB Curome Cox	FB Matt Kalapinski
NORTH CAROLINA	DE Julius Peppers	CB Mike Waddell	K Blake Ferguson	DT Ryan Sims
N.C. STATE	TB Ray Robinson	WR Koren Robinson	QB Philip Rivers	SS Adrian Wilson
VIRGINIA	RB Antwoine Womack	WR Billy McMullen	QB Bryson Spinner	OG Josh Lawson
WAKE FOREST	DE Bryan Ray	QB C.J. Leak	DB Caron Bracey	C Vince Azzolina

Once a Kodiak® man,

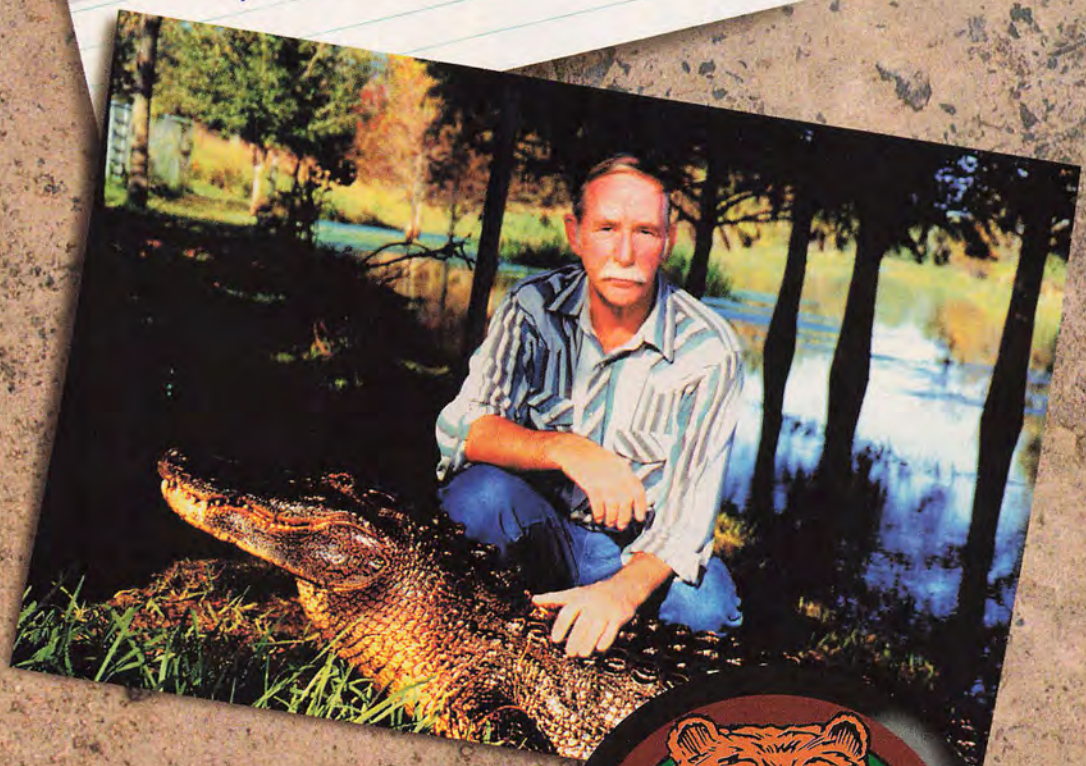
WARNING:

THIS PRODUCT MAY CAUSE GUM DISEASE AND TOOTH LOSS

Dear Kodiak -

Some guys keep bird dogs. Some guys keep duck dogs. Me, I keep the Kodiak bear. (We go way back) and B.G. pictured here (yes, he's the real deal). The biggest difference between my two friends is that it's not really a good idea to carry B.G. around in your hip pocket.

Sincerely
Billy R Turk



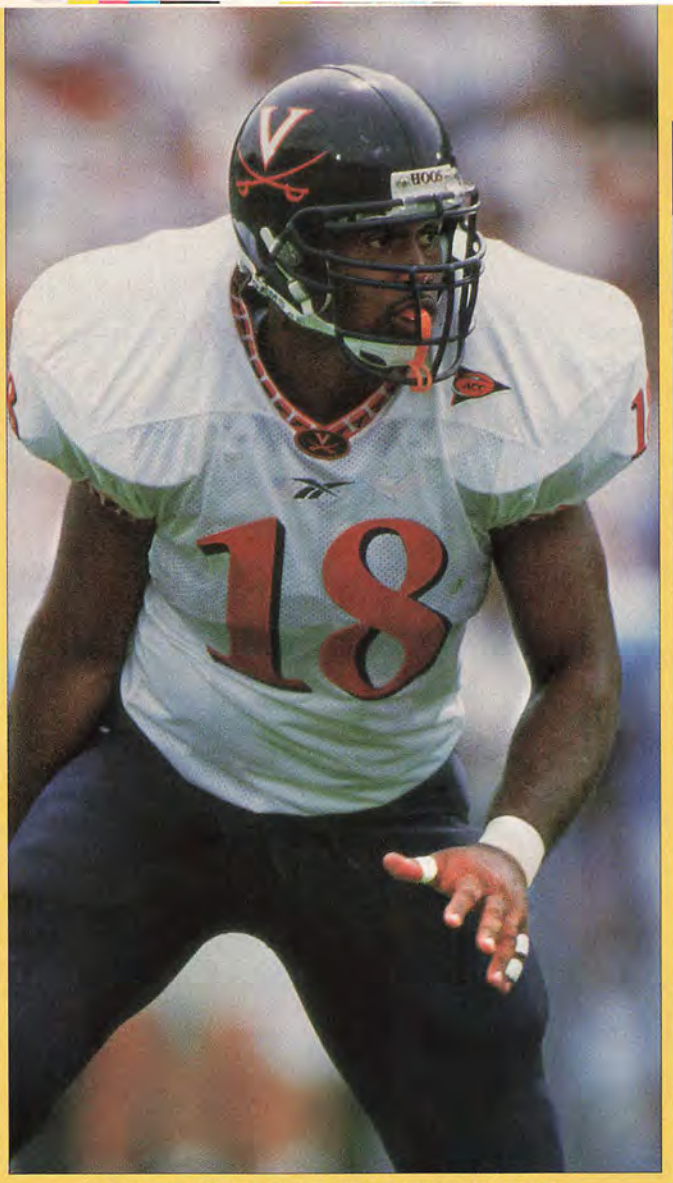
Are you a Kodiak Man? In a few words, tell us how you like to enjoy Kodiak and send it in with your photo. You might be featured in a national magazine ad, too. Mail to: BEAR ADVENTURES, P.O. Box 3300, Memphis, TN 38173 Remember, all Kodiak men are of legal age to purchase smokeless tobacco.

SMOKELESS TOBACCO
NOT FOR SALE TO MINORS
IT'S THE LAW

Kodiak® is a registered trademark of Conwood Company, L.P. © 2000 Conwood Company, L.P.

Always a

man.



CAVALIER MIDDLE LINEBACKER YUBRENAL ISABELLE IS A HARD-HITTING SENIOR.

PHOTO BY SCOTT HALLERAN/ALLSPORT

THE BIG ONES

AUG. 26	
Florida State vs. BYU	Lots of passes for Pigskin Classic in Jacksonville.
AUG. 27	
Georgia Tech at Virginia Tech	Yellow Jackets start as underdog in BCA Classic.
SEPT. 2	
BYU at Virginia	Cavs beat BYU in a shootout last year in Provo.
SEPT. 9	
Florida State at Georgia Tech	Perhaps catching FSU early will help Yellow Jackets.
N.C. State at Indiana	Wolfpack can make an early statement for new coach Chuck Amato.
SEPT. 16	
Maryland at West Virginia	Early season road test for improving Terps.
Virginia at Duke	Understand: These teams really dislike each other.
SEPT. 23	
Clemson at Virginia	This will shuffle deck near top of the league race.
Marshall at North Carolina	Strange: Thundering Herd now a big opponent.
SEPT. 28	
Florida State at Maryland	Each team has four days rest for Thursday night game.
SEPT. 30	
Georgia Tech at North Carolina	A key test for Tar Heels team seeking respect.
OCT. 7	
Florida State at Miami	Can Seminoles make it three in a row at Miami?
Maryland at Virginia	A key swing game in the early ACC race.
OCT. 14	
Maryland at Clemson	Should separate contender from pretender.
OCT. 28	
Georgia Tech at Clemson	Tech's improved secondary vs. Clemson's passing game.
North Carolina at Virginia	There always seems to be something (bowl bid, job) on the line.
NOV. 4	
Duke at Wake Forest	Should be the tie-breaker to avoid ACC cellar.
Clemson at Florida State	Bowden Bowl II: FSU's Bobby vs. Clemson's Tommy.
North Carolina at Pittsburgh	Tar Heels might need to win here to stay in bowl hunt.
NOV. 11	
North Carolina at N.C. State	High-strung rivalry moves back to a campus site.
NOV. 18	
North Carolina at Duke	Two programs trying to rebuild.
South Carolina at Clemson	This season-ending game won't be any nicer for Lou Holtz.
Florida at Florida State	FSU tries to beat hated Gators for third time in a row.
NOV. 25	
Georgia Tech at Georgia	Can rivals create another final-second classic?
Virginia at Virginia Tech	Cavs won't have any more luck keeping up with Michael Vick.

said. "The challenge is to throw the ball."

Tech returns 34 players from last year's 44-player two-deep. Whom the Yellow Jackets don't return, however, is quarterback Joe Hamilton, who finished his career as the ACC's career leader in total offense. Dependable decision-maker George Godsey won the quarterback job in the spring. He appears to have a supporting cast that will allow him to be more of a role player than a star. Athletic redshirt freshman Andy Hall is in position to push Godsey in the fall.

Virginia, whose streak of seven-win seasons (13) parallels FSU's NCAA-record streak of 10-win seasons, wants to wipe out a sour taste stemming from a 63-21 loss to Illinois in the Micronpc.com Bowl. The Cavaliers don't have the flashy quarterback most of the ACC teams are featuring and will turn to the tailback toss.

The Cavs tailback Antwoine Womack, who missed all of 1999 with legal problems and allowed the nation to see how sensational Thomas Jones really was, regains his position. And there's depth there, too.

But after grumblings about the program being stagnant, Welsh shuffled his staff as a message to players as well as coaches. Chief on Virginia's challenges is upgrading a defense that ranked 90th in I-A in total defense.

The Cavs have one believer.

"You can almost always count on Virginia being there," Bobby Bowden said. "George always has a sound scheme and good players. They're very good nearly every year."

Alas, no matter how good Virginia is — or Clemson, Maryland or Georgia Tech — Florida State is better. Maybe even much better.

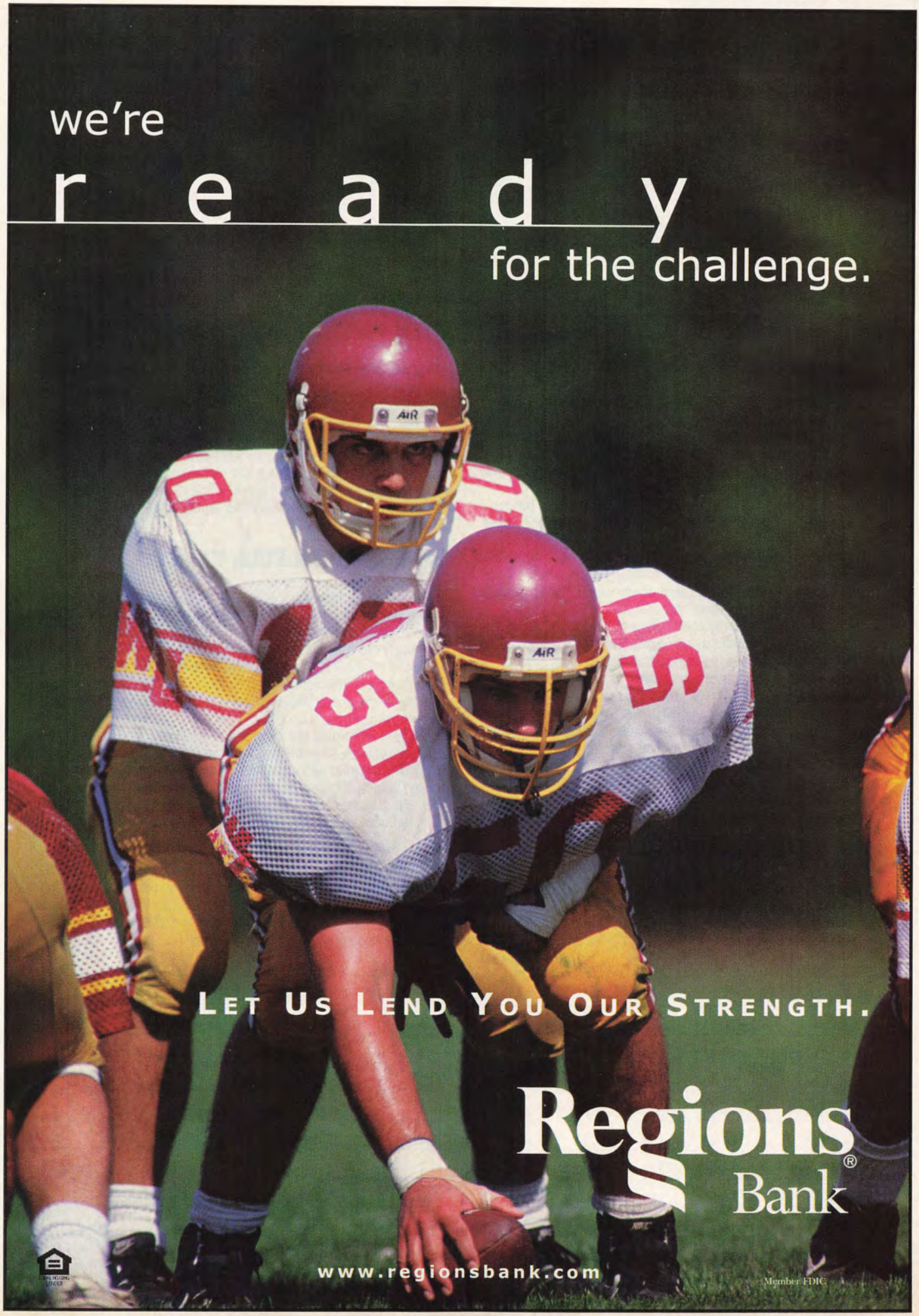
The Seminoles come off the first perfect season (12-0) of Bowden's career, and the 70-year-old coach has told close friends that this team may be better than last year's. Such is the fallout from having a 28-year-old starting quarterback (Chris Weinke), two all-star caliber tailbacks (Travis Minor and Jeff Chaney), a solid offensive line and an intriguing blend of youth and experience.

FSU's only question seems to be shoring up a defensive front left by Corey Simon and Jerry Johnson. The defensive ends also try to conjure up their old-time pass rush, or at least enough not to make a solid secondary question itself.

Notice we haven't mentioned Peter Warrick yet? That's because the Seminoles won't miss him.

"We're pretty deep there," offensive coordinator Mark Richt said of his receivers. "Weinke can go deep to just about all of them. They're all going to make plays."

— Alan Schmadtke


we're
ready
for the challenge.
LET US LEND YOU OUR STRENGTH.
Regions Bank
www.regionsbank.com
Member FDIC

Around the ACC

Carolina Coaches Have Come Together

Two of the constant whispers the past few seasons in the Atlantic Coast Conference were heard within earshot of each other in North Carolina.

At North Carolina State, people praised coach Mike O'Cain for his offensive ingenuity and flexibility. But others wondered whether he had the total package (read: discipline and toughness) to be a head coach.

At North Carolina, outsiders applauded coach Carl Torbush's hard-nosed intensity and down-home yet cutting-edge approach to defense. Deep down, though, Tar Heels wondered if Torbush had enough sense to get out of the way and let his assistants do the coaching.

Both sets of whispers grew into shouts in 1999, and a new century gives the ACC a most unusual — and thought-provoking — combination. Torbush nearly lost his job. In fact, the Associated Press reported that he was fired before the annual season-ending game with N.C. State.

Then Carolina knocked off N.C. State, finishing a 3-8 season with two consecutive wins. At midfield afterward, O'Cain hugged Torbush and wished him the best.

Later, though, it was O'Cain who needed the hug. He was fired. Torbush kept his job.

Then came the intrigue. Torbush, long an admirer of O'Cain's offenses, hired O'Cain to revamp the Tar Heels' offense.

"He's done great. He's exactly what I thought he would be," Torbush said of O'Cain after they spent their first spring together. "He has adjusted to not being the head coach and being the offensive coordinator. I'll say this: He enjoys what he likes to do, and that's coach. And he's getting to coach again."

Unfortunately for O'Cain, 41-40 in seven seasons at N.C. State, his new offense is less versatile and in many ways less-well-equipped than most of his offenses with the Wolfpack. Quarterback Ronald Curry or Luke Huard will add some excitement, but the Tar Heels haven't had a running game since 1997.

What O'Cain will do is what he mastered at N.C. State, teaching quarterbacks how to nickel-and-dime defenses to death with good decisions and looking for mismatches. He won't have the luxury of tutoring his starting quarterback, Curry, until fall drills. Curry missed all of spring while recovering from a torn Achilles' tendon suffered in October.

About the only major adjustment O'Cain really has to make, however, is in his fashion, trading red hues for blues.

HIGH-PRICED HELP

If new North Carolina State coach Chuck Amato is not able to elevate the Wolfpack beyond the .500 level (see the four-year-standings below), it won't be because he doesn't have the staff he wants.

N.C. State athletic director Les Robinson saved money by hiring Amato off Bobby Bowden's staff at Florida State and by not hiring a higher-priced head coach from another school. He spent the savings, however, when he gave Amato virtual carte blanche to pay his new staff.

Amato's nine assistants will earn more than $1 million combined, about $250,000 more than what O'Cain's staff earned in 1998, the Raleigh News and Observer reported.

RUNNING ON A FULL TANK

The hottest statistic at Maryland is not the latest negative NCAA Tournament nugget about the Terrapins' basketball team. It's what tailback LaMont Jordan is poised to do.

Slowly and quietly, Jordan has elevated himself to being not only the top runner in the ACC, but also the active NCAA leader in career rushing yards. The previous two seasons that distinction was held by Ricky Williams and Ron Dayne, both of whom celebrated Christmas their senior seasons with a Heisman Trophy.

Jordan, who elected to come back to College Park for his senior season, can finish in the top 10 in career rushing yards if he can duplicate his junior year output of 1,642 yards. Although Dayne and several other runners (Alabama's Shaun Alexander, Virginia's Thomas Jones) racked up the Heisman votes last year, Jordan was the nation's leading rusher over the final six games of 1999.

"He combines the speed and ability to make people miss in the open

FOUR YEAR STANDINGS

In its eight years in the ACC, Florida State has as many national championship trophies in its awards case as the Seminoles have conference losses: Two.

Florida State enjoys a record run of 10-win seasons (13). Virginia enjoys another extension of seven-win seasons (13). No wonder there's so much separation between the top and bottom of the ACC. And while five teams have been to a total of 16 bowls, the bottom four have been to a total of two.

Wake Forest's bowl success in 1999 helped the Demon Deacons, but Duke continues to languish near the bottom of Division I-A.

	ACC	Pct.	Overall	Pct.	C	B	M	Comment
Florida State	31-1	.969	45-4	.918	4	4	4	Nobody does it better.
Virginia	21-11	.656	30-17	.638	0	3	0	Still trying to get over the hump.
Georgia Tech	21-11	.656	30-17	.638	1	3	0	On the brink of major consistency.
North Carolina	20-12	.625	31-16	.660	0	3	0	Heels let their edge slip away.
Clemson	16-16	.500	23-24	.489	0	3	0	Tigers give thanks to Peach Bowl.
N.C. State	14-18	.438	22-24	.478	0	1	0	Starts new century with new coach.
Wake Forest	9-23	.281	18-27	.400	0	1	0	Caldwell had ACC-record six-year losing skid.
Maryland	7-25	.219	15-29	.341	0	0	0	Terps don't seem that far behind.
Duke	5-27	.156	9-35	.205	0	0	0	Bad news: Blue Devils lack experience.

C=Championships (includes shared titles), B=Bowls, M=Major Bowls (BCS)

field. He can wear a defense down. And he's got enough wiggle to make guys miss in traffic," said Maryland coach Ron Vanderlinden, an unabashed Jordan fan who is still irked Jordan was not a first-team All-ACC selection as a sophomore.

"When I got here (three years ago) we couldn't run the ball. LaMont has allowed us to run the ball so well we almost take it for granted now."

At 5-11, 211 pounds, Jordan should be rested and ready for the 2000 season. Vanderlinden rendered him ineligible for spring drills, allowing him to concentrate on school.

"If anything, we opened him up to fewer hits, fewer bumps and bruises," Vanderlinden said. "That should only help him. He didn't need to show us anything in the spring."

BOWL SEASON

Last season, the ACC sent five teams to bowls, with Wake Forest snaring a spot in the Aloha Bowl.

Once again, the ACC has four automatic ties to postseason, including one (or more) spots in the Bowl Championship Series. Never mind that the ACC has never sent more than its champion (always Florida State) to the BCS or its predecessors (the Bowl Alliance and Bowl Coalition).

There continues to be speculation that the Sunshine Classic in Miami, owned by television syndicator Raycom of Charlotte, N.C., eventually will shift operations to Charlotte. ACC officials don't deny it — and they're delighted the neutral-site North Carolina-N.C. State game in Charlotte has gone so well. To them, it showed the Carolinas might fare well hosting a postseason game.

ACC Champion	Bowl Championship Series*
ACC No.2	Gator Bowl vs. Big East #2 or Notre Dame
ACC No.3	Peach Bowl vs. SEC #4
ACC No.4	Sunshine Classic vs. Big East #4

* Orange Bowl if ranked #1 or #2; Sugar, Fiesta and Rose possible at-large spots.

NON-CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Every year when media reports surface that the ACC wants to expand, the argument against includes the fact that every school plays every other school in football. The league decides a true champion, men like ACC commissioner John Swofford say.

But out of conference, there is not a set philosophy. Here's how the teams scheduled for themselves this year away from the brotherhood:

TEAM	VERY TOUGH	CHALLENGING	EASY
Clemson	(none)	Missouri	The Citadel, S. Carolina
Duke	East Carolina	at N'western, at Vandy	(none)
Florida St	at Miami, Florida	BYU, Louisville	(none)
Georgia Tech	at Va Tech, at Georgia	Central Florida	Navy
Maryland	(none)	at West Virginia	Temple, Mid-Tenn
N. Carolina	(none)	Marshall, at Pittsburgh	Tulsa
N.C. State	(none)	at Indiana	Arkansas St., SMU
Virginia	at Virginia Tech	BYU	Richmond
Wake Forest	(none)	Vanderbilt	App. St, at Navy

TOUGHEST SCHEDULE

You have to wonder what life would be like if Florida State were an independent again, as the Seminoles were before 1992. In the years before the ACC, Bobby Bowden was not above loading his schedules with the likes of Tulane (in the Green Wave's lean years).

But, then, Bowden also earned his reputation as a road warrior by playing teams from the SEC (LSU and Auburn), Big Ten (Ohio State, Michigan and Michigan State), plus Notre Dame and the like. Future FSU schedules include Texas A&M and Notre Dame.

Bowden's schedule is comparable to last year's load, with Brigham Young in the Pigskin Classic at Jacksonville and Louisville replacing Louisiana Tech on the slate ... along with annual showdowns with Miami and Florida. Louisville was the replacement for Auburn, which cancelled out of a two-year home-and-home agreement with FSU last year.

This year, though, Georgia Tech is a close runnerup in the difficulty dept. Tech coach George O'Leary stepped up and decided to play at Virginia Tech in the Black Coaches Association game on Aug. 27.

"It's just something I thought would help this team in the long run," O'Leary said. "The younger players will understand really quick what's expected of them."

That would be this: Keep an eye on Virginia Tech quarterback Michael Vick.

EASIEST SCHEDULE

This actually might be known this year as smart scheduling. Wake Forest, followed closely by Duke, Maryland and NC State, takes the least-is-best approach. The Demon Deacons have Appalachian State (a I-AA power), Vanderbilt and Navy. Faced with replacing nearly two dozen starters, they'll need every bit of the light weight.

Likewise, Maryland, Duke and N.C. State will try to make themselves bowl-ready with a less-than-wholesome feast on teams such as Temple, Northwestern, Arkansas State and the ever-popular Middle Tennessee, joining Division I-A this season.

THE REAL-DEAL CANDIDATES

There seems to be no end to the awards you can win in college football. You got an award, we've got a candidate. And so do the schools, of course.

Here, then, is the *Lindy's* list of "The Real-Deal Candidates" for the major awards. From the ACC, they are:

- **HEISMAN TROPHY (Outstanding player):** Chris Weinke (FSU), LaMont Jordan (Maryland)
- **OUTLAND TROPHY (Interior lineman):** None
- **LOMBARDI (lineman, linebacker):** Keith Adams (Clemson), Byron Thweatt (Virginia), Jamal Reynolds (FSU)
- **BRONKO NAGURSKI (defensive player):** Byron Thweatt (Virginia), Keith Adams (Clemson), Jamal Reynolds (FSU), Julius Peppers (N. Carolina)
- **DAVEY O'BRIEN AWARD (quarterback):** Chris Weinke (FSU)
- **DOAK WALKER (running back):** LaMont Jordan (Maryland), Travis Minor (FSU)
- **BILETNIKOFF (receiver):** Kelly Campbell (Georgia Tech), Rod Gardner (Clemson)
- **BUTKUS (linebacker):** Brandon Spoon (North Carolina), Keith Adams (Clemson), Byron Thweatt (Virginia)
- **JIM THORPE (defensive back):** Robert Carswell (Clemson), Derrick Gibson (FSU)
- **GROZA (kicker):** Brian Kopka (Maryland)

ODDS AND ENDS

• One of the goals this spring for Clemson coach Tommy Bowden was to get offensive coordinator Rich Rodriguez and defensive coordinator Reggie Herring to swear less. "If you're a Christian, that's something you strive for all the time," Bowden said. It can be tough on the football field, however.

• When Chuck Amato left Florida State for North Carolina State, he took only one FSU assistant with him. Chris Demarest — dubbed "Bay Watch" in Tallahassee for his fashion sense and handsome looks — will coach the Wolfpack's secondary. He was a grad assistant at FSU.

• If Maryland is to get better, it will come from its passing game, and the Terps welcome Moises Cruz back to the team after a one-year layoff. Cruz, Maryland's leading receiver in 1998, was suspended for his role in an off-campus bar fight.

• For the third time in a row, FSU has all but handed its starting place-kicking job to a freshman. First came Scott Bentley, then Sebastian Janikowski, and now comes Brett Cimorelli.

• Although Joe Hamilton left Georgia Tech as the ACC's career leader in total offense, Hamilton won't be the player most missed by the Yellow Jackets. Also gone is linebacker Matt Uremovich, who lost his career to a non-life-threatening injury to his spine. Tech coach George O'Leary was a constant supporter of Uremovich's toughness and his leadership.

— Alan Schmadtke

Rating the ACC

It's FSU Across the Board

QUARTERBACKS

The ACC's youth movement at quarterback has grown up, but the cream of the class is Florida State's Chris Weinke (28 by season's start), the oldest quarterback in the country. Weinke was seventh in Division I-A in passing efficiency as a junior, aided in great part by Peter Warrick's ability to free himself deep.

This year the old fella will have to work with a younger crop of receivers — and he might have to be more careful, too.

Around the rest of the league, the contrast to Weinke could not be any more striking. With the exception of Virginia's Dan Ellis and (at least at the start) Georgia Tech's George Godsey, ACC teams field mobile playmakers. Most of them (see Philip Rivers at N.C. State and C.J. Leak at Wake Forest) are still learning how to throw or at least the intricacies of the game at this level. Defensive fronts and secondaries in the ACC will be tested like no other time before.

No.	Team	Summary
1.	Florida State	Seminoles better hope Chris Weinke stays healthy.
2.	Duke	Blue Devils won't lose because of QB Spencer Romine.
3.	Virginia	Dan Ellis is functional, but there's not much help behind him.
4.	Clemson	Woody Dantzler will stretch defense with his arm and his feet.
5.	Maryland	Terps more athletic here, but can they throw consistently?
6.	N. Carolina	Ronald Curry's health still a question; backups still unproven.
7.	Wake Forest	C.J. Leak's time to shine is at hand.
8.	Georgia Tech	Where have you gone, Joe Hamilton?
9.	N.C. State	Philip Rivers talented; Wolfpack candidates are too young.

RUNNING BACKS

Over the final six games of 1999, no runner in the country gained more yards than Terrapins tailback LaMont Jordan (1,101 yards). That was more than Virginia's Thomas Jones, more than Heisman winner Ron Dayne, more than national rushing champ LaDainian Tomlinson of Texas Christian.

If Jordan can duplicate last year's output (1,642 yards), he will finish in the top 10 in career rushing.

Without Jones, Virginia will turn to Antwoine Womack — maybe. Womack, a 1998 starter who missed last season with legal problems, still must outrun sophomore Arlen Harris.

Florida State's Travis Minor concerns FSU coach Bobby Bowden in that he doesn't break off many long runs, but between Minor and backup Jeff Chaney, the Seminoles should squeeze every drop from their ground game. But as FSU receivers coach Jeff Bowden likes to say, "Weinke didn't come back for his senior year to hand the ball off."

No.	Team	Summary
1.	Florida State	Travis Minor and Jeff Chaney a powerful 1-2 punch.
2.	Maryland	LaMont Jordan and FB Matt Kalapinski could star anywhere.
3.	Virginia	Some wonder if Antwoine Womack can win his job back.
4.	Georgia Tech	Joe Burns and Ed Wilder coming back from knee surgery.
5.	Clemson	Bowden would like to find a new tailback.
6.	N.C. State	Solid tailbacks, but very little depth.
7.	N. Carolina	Carl Torbush has a doghouse full of tailbacks.
8.	Duke	Blue Devils need B.J. Hill to return strong from knee surgery.
9.	Wake Forest	Jim Caldwell has no choice: Bring on the youth movement.

RECEIVERS

At times last year it was humorous to listen to Clemson coach Tommy Bowden talk about Rod Gardner. Or, rather, to go out of his way not to talk about Gardner. All Gardner accomplished in 1999 was to set Clemson single-season records for catches (80) and receiving yards (1,084). But Bowden was rarely satisfied that his 6-3 wideout was gaining any yards after he made a catch.

Regardless, the second-year coach has bought into the strategy of matching up tall receivers on the outside against shorter cornerbacks. Although the corners may have an edge in quickness and speed, an accurate throw allows the taller receivers to win a jump-ball. Until Bowden has a couple of more years to increase the Tigers' team speed, this philosophy will serve him well.

"The tall, fast guys are NFL first-rounders," Bowden says. "But even if they're not burners, they can still be productive."

No.	Team	Summary
1.	Florida State	FSU never has problem finding fast playmakers here.
2.	Georgia Tech	Can QBs get the ball to Kelly Campbell consistently?
3.	N.C. State	Sophomore Koren Robinson best of good young pass-catchers.
4.	Clemson	Gardner needs 54 catches to become Tigers' career reception leader.
5.	Maryland	Return of Moises Cruz should make a big difference to QBs.
6.	Virginia	Nondescript group needs infusion from freshmen and sophomores.
7.	Wake Forest	New system means WRs aren't as vital as they used to be.
8.	N. Carolina	Tar Heels need to find two go-to guys (Kory Bailey, Bosley Allen?).
9.	Duke	Ben Erdeljac can't make up for key losses.

OFFENSIVE LINE

Next to the quarterback, no other position brings as wide a gap between the haves and have-nots as the offensive line.

Florida State and Virginia have the potential to whip opponents every Saturday to the point where if all they wanted to do was run the ball, they probably could survive.

Clemson's much-maligned group, barely five-deep a year ago, is six or seven deep this year. After the Tigers, there's a desperate need for men who can block.

The Seminoles, it seems, have all they want. It speaks volumes that FSU lost a key blocker (Jerry Carmichael) to a spring knee injury, but are worried not one bit.

Likewise, Virginia also returns three starters and one of the ACC's more intriguing players in 6-6, 325-pound tackle Jermese Jones. He returns after knee surgery but could make — *ahem* — a large impact. The Cavaliers will ride their OL to yet another seven-win season.

No.	Team	Summary
1.	Florida State	Tarlos Thomas an All-American; soph Brett Williams will become one.
2.	Virginia	Four juniors, one senior anchor solid, versatile unit.
3.	Clemson	Bigger and older, but Tigers are still a year away up front.
4.	Maryland	Terps need more depth to make TB Jordan a national star.
5.	Wake Forest	Needs two more blockers like Michael Collins, Vince Azzolina.
6.	N. Carolina	Program's best blockers might be its youngest ones.
7.	Duke	Redshirt freshmen battling seniors for serious playing time.
8.	Georgia Tech	Two redshirt freshmen (John Bennett, Clay Hartley) could start.
9.	N.C. State	Rehabbing returnees and new staff have this unit in state of flux.

DEFENSIVE LINE

There was a time not so long ago, it seems, when the ACC was a defense-first league. Almost every team, even some at the very bottom, were rugged and hard-nosed up front, even if they didn't have a secondary to match. These days a good number of secondaries will struggle, and a large part of that will be because of a quiet pass rush. There doesn't seem to be nearly the number of dominant defensive linemen in the ACC that there used to be.

North Carolina's Julius Peppers changed the complexion of the NCAA Tournament in basketball as the Tar Heels' reserve post player, and he has the potential to wreak similar havoc on the field this fall.

Unfortunately for North Carolina, Peppers needs much more help, particularly at defensive end.

Much attention will focus in Tallahassee on Chris Woods and Kevin Emanuel, two players charged with filling the void left by All-American Corey Simon and fellow tackle Jerry Johnson ... but at least the Seminoles have great ends, led by Jamal Reynolds.

Roland Seymour can be a force at the other end, but has battled injuries and spent the summer rehabbing a knee injury suffered in the Sugar Bowl victory over Virginia Tech. Typical of the Seminoles' depth, coach Bobby Bowden can plug in senior David Warren as a starter. He's the kind of guy who could be a featured lineman on other teams; he caused three fumbles last season, starting in five games.

No.	Team	Summary
1.	Florida State	Hard to replace DTs Simon and Johnson, but they'll manage.
2.	Clemson	Tigers will start three seniors (Jolly, Holloman, Bryant) up front.
3.	Maryland	Mike Whaley, William Shime poised for big season.
4.	Virginia	Needs to play great here to help a highly suspect secondary.
5.	N.C. State	Potentially one of the most surprising groups in ACC.
6.	Georgia Tech	Still not active enough, but getting better.
7.	North Carolina	Two stars (Peppers and Ryan Sims), more star-gazers.
8.	Duke	Blue Devils need strong recoveries from Nate Krill, Levar Johnson.
9.	Wake Forest	Deacs' dropoff from 1999 will be most noticeable here.

LINEBACKERS

Two sets of linebackers stand head and shoulders above the rest in the ACC, two others are nearly as solid and three other groups figure to set a solid tone for their defense. Yes, linebackers are back in vogue in the ACC.

What should separate good defenses from great ones is how much safety support those linebackers need against the run game. Defenses these days are designed to put safeties closer to the line of scrimmage for run support, but Virginia, North Carolina, Florida State and Clemson should not have to resort to such high-risk, high-reward tactics. Their linebackers are that good. However, that's not to say those four defenses won't attack with that style, regardless.

NFL scouts love Florida State's Brian Allen and Tommey Polley, but no one is likely to match the production of Clemson's undersized Keith Adams.

No.	Team	Summary
1.	Florida State	Brian Allen, Tommy Polley and Bradley Jennings seek backups.
2.	Virginia	Thweatt, Danny Green and Yubrenal Isabelle should dominate.
3.	North Carolina	Three senior starters are the heart and soul of UNC's team.
4.	Clemson	OLB Keith Adams is a first-team All-American.
5.	N.C. State	New coach Chuck Amato will like these guys.
6.	Maryland	Speed-oriented group led by Aaron Thompson.
7.	Duke	Todd DeLamielleure, Kendral Knight the backbone of 3-4 scheme.
8.	Georgia Tech	Must be team's most-improved unit if Jackets will stop anybody.
9.	Wake Forest	Same as DL group ... just too many key losses.

SECONDARY

If the ACC's flashy, playmaking quarterbacks play up to their hype, pity the league's secondaries. They won't have a clue.

With the exception of Florida State, Clemson and Wake Forest, the ACC is filled with defenses that show off holes in the back end. Either the corners are soft or the safeties are. Or the secondary is balanced but young.

In fact, if Virginia's defensive backfield doesn't perform at the highest level this year, the Cavs again will hear the screaming come season's end. Last year Virginia was last (ninth) in the ACC in pass defense, surrendering 228 yards a game and 19 touchdowns.

Florida State has three men back from a secondary that started in the Sugar Bowl, and the one new face might be its best defender, safety Chris Hope.

Plus there's a wave of depth behind those three — corners Clevan Thomas and Tay Cody and rover Derrick Gibson. Each is a senior. They combined for nine interceptions last season; Hope had four more picks in a mostly reserve role.

No.	Team	Summary
1.	Florida State	Could be strength of the Seminoles' 2000 defense.
2.	Clemson	Robert Carswell, Alex Ardley lead unit primed for big plays.
3.	Wake Forest	Fast and skilled, strength of a suspect defense.
4.	North Carolina	Talented corners, but safeties need more schooling.
5.	Virginia	Addition of new DBs coach Bob Price can only help this group.
6.	Georgia Tech	George O'Leary not sold yet on cornerbacks Clark and Hester.
7.	Maryland	Terps must shore up this area to compete for an ACC title.
8.	N.C. State	Still a job or two to be won here during two-a-days.
9.	Duke	Blue Devils must replace three starters from so-so 1999 unit.

KICKING GAME

Gone from the ACC is Florida State's Sebastian Janikowski, the first kicker picked in the first round of the NFL draft in more than 20 years.

In 2000, the top returning kicker also hails from Florida — Maryland kicker Brian Kopka, a native of Hollywood, Fla. There were some questions about Maryland's other kicking half, but walkon punter Brooks Barnard seems to have matters in hand.

The staggering trend in the ACC this year is how many programs are poised to turn over their kicking duties to a freshman, Florida State included. That fact speaks to the heart of how coaches cope with attrition: No matter how much they like to talk about the importance of the kicking game, they don't often put their (scholarship) money where their mouth is, hoping to get away with just one scholarship kicker at a time.

If Janikowski had stayed, Florida State would have been No. 1 here as well, giving them a clean sweep of all the categories. But Maryland sneaks in here thanks to Kopka, punter Brooks Barnard (whose 42.1 average in 1999 was the best at the school since 1993) ... and Guillian Gary is quite capable handling the punt returns.

No.	Team	Summary
1.	Maryland	Oh, how far the Terps have come here.
2.	Georgia Tech	Return game (Kelly Campbell) lifts a young group.
3.	Florida State	Freshman (Brett Cimorelli) to replace Sebastian Janikowski.
4.	Virginia	George Welsh has special teams coach for the first time.
5.	N.C. State	Chuck Amato was a key special teams coach at FSU.
6.	Duke	Loss of Groza candidate Sims Lenhardt hurts.
7.	Wake Forest	Jury's still out on this group.
8.	Clemson	Tigers better hope they don't need a FG at the end.
9.	North Carolina	One of Carl Torbush's major concerns for 2000.

— Alan Schmadtke

ACC YEAR IN REVIEW: 1999

THE RACE

Florida State and Georgia Tech were believed to have the ACC's best two offenses, and they did not disappoint in a game that all but settled the league championship in September.

It was the top-ranked Seminoles with 27-year-old quarterback Chris Weinke and Heisman Trophy hopeful Peter Warrick vs. No. 10 Tech, with Heisman hopeful Joe Hamilton at quarterback. Warrick had 167 yards, caught a touchdown pass and ran for one as FSU extended its home unbeaten string to 42 games. Hamilton was 22 for 25 passing for 387 yards and four touchdowns. It wasn't decided until Travis Minor jumped on a late onside kick as the Seminoles held on to win, 41-35.

The Seminoles took their No. 1 ranking into Clemson in late October for a date with history. Division I-A's first father-son game — also known as the Bowden Bowl — fell on the same Saturday that FSU coach Bobby Bowden tried to gain career win No. 300. Clemson, coached by Bowden's son Tommy, outplayed Florida State, but could not hold on to a second half lead as FSU won, 17-14.

THE CHAMPION

What a strange season it was for the Seminoles, who became the first program to go wire-to-wire as a No. 1 team in the *Associated Press* poll.

As if Bowden achieving his milestones of beating his son and winning No. 300 (and capturing a second national title) weren't enough, he also was forced to suspend, then defend, Warrick, his All-American wideout. Warrick sat out two games after receiving a felonious discount for clothing at a department store. Starting receiver Laveranues Coles was dismissed from the team. Warrick was not, but the incident basically ended his chances to win the Heisman.

Given a cause other than playing for themselves, the Seminoles adopted an us-against-the-world attitude. As in five of the previous seven seasons, they swept through the ACC. Weinke directed a character-building, come-from-behind victory at Florida in the regular season finale, only FSU's second win in the 1990s in Gainesville.

The win propelled the Seminoles into the Sugar Bowl against No. 2 Virginia Tech. A bizarre year had a unique ending: The Sugar Bowl triumph presented Bowden his first perfect season (12-0) in 34 years as a head coach.

THE STARS

Offensive Player of the Year: Peter Warrick, WR, Florida State

Yes, Warrick made an off-field mistake that many believe should have ended his senior season — a senior season that many believed he would forego by entering the NFL Draft after his junior year. But coach Bobby Bowden stuck by his star, and Warrick did not disappoint. He caught eight touchdown passes, ran for three, passed for one and scored one more on a punt return … and topped that by making six catches for 163 yards and two scores in the Sugar Bowl.

Defensive Player of the Year: Keith Adams, LB, Clemson

This comes in a close call over Florida State defensive lineman Corey Simon, who dominated the line of scrimmage almost every Saturday. But Simon had plenty of talent surrounding him. Adams operated more at a disadvantage. Still, Adams finished his season in style: He set an ACC record for single-season tackles for loss with 33 — six more than the previous record. (He added two more in the Peach Bowl, but the ACC does not count bowl stats in its totals.)

Coach of the Year: Tommy Bowden, Clemson

When Bowden arrived at Clemson from Tulane, where he had posted a miraculous 12-0 season, all he wanted was improvement. The Tigers never dreamed of a bowl game. They got that … and much more. Playing against one of the toughest schedules in the country, the Tigers went 6-5 before losing to Mississippi State in the Peach Bowl. Three of Clemson's five regular season losses came to teams that were unbeaten in the regular season — Marshall, Virginia Tech and FSU.

THE BOWLS

Wake Forest was rewarded for four years of hard work with a trip to the Aloha Bowl in Hawaii. The Demon Deacons, who improved their running game from a 65.4-yard average in 1998 to 175.7 in '99, promptly overwhelmed Arizona State.

Their appearance meant that five of the ACC's nine teams landed in postseason. With the Sugar Bowl win, FSU coach Bobby Bowden tied former Clemson coach Danny Ford in ACC bowl wins with six. The ACC finished the 1990s with 46 bowl appearances, going 24-21-1.

Aloha Bowl	Wake Forest 23, Arizona State 3
Micron PC Bowl	Illinois 63, Virginia 21
Peach Bowl	Mississippi State 17, Clemson 7
Gator Bowl	Miami 28, Georgia Tech 13
Sugar Bowl	Florida State 46, Virginia Tech 29

NFL DRAFT

The league's draft numbers were down from 1998 when a league-record 32 players were selected. This year the number was 22, which was still the third-highest total of any league. (The SEC and Big Ten, a 12- and 11- member league, respectively, were higher.)

In a statistic that underscores how much Tommy Bowden was able to do at Clemson in 1999 with such a young team, the Tigers were the only ACC school that did not have any players picked in the 1999 NFL Draft.

DUKE (1 pick): Chris Combs, DT (Pittsburgh, 6th round).
FLORIDA STATE (7): Peter Warrick, WR (Cincinnati, 1st); Corey Simon, DT (Philadelphia, 1st); *Sebastian Janikowski, PK, (Oakland, 1st); Ron Dugans, WR (Cincinnati, 3rd); Laveranues Coles, WR (New York Jets, 3rd); Jerry Johnson, DT (Denver, 4th); Mario Edwards, DB (Dallas, 6th).
GEORGIA TECH (3): Travares Tillman, DB (Buffalo, 2nd); Dez White, WR (Chicago, 3rd); Joe Hamilton, QB (Tampa Bay, 7th).
MARYLAND (2): *Lewis Sanders, DB, (Cleveland, 4th); Delbert Cowsette, DT (Washington, 7th).
NORTH CAROLINA (1): Deon Dyer, FB (Miami, 4th).
N.C. STATE (2): Lloyd Harrison, DB (Washington, 3rd); Tony Scott, DB (New York Jets, 6th).
VIRGINIA (4): Thomas Jones, RB (Phoenix, 1st); John St. Clair, OL, (St. Louis, 4th); Shannon Taylor, LB, (San Diego, 6th); Antwan Harris, DB (New England, 6th).
WAKE FOREST (3): Fred Robbins, DT (Minnesota, 2nd); Dustin Lyman, LB (Chicago, 4th); Reggie Austin, DB, (Chicago, 4th).
(*Junior eligibility)

THE STANDINGS

TEAM	ACC	Pct.	PF	PA	All	Pct.	PF	PA
Florida State	8-0	1.000	310	123	12-0	1.000	458	203
Georgia Tech	5-3	.625	307	261	8-4	.667	461	361
Virginia	5-3	.625	222	210	7-5	.583	345	365
Clemson	5-3	.625	262	171	6-6	.500	322	253
Wake Forest	3-5	.375	145	178	7-5	.583	266	209
NC State	3-5	.375	167	250	6-6	.500	244	302
Duke	3-5	.375	182	190	3-8	.273	217	363
Maryland	2-6	.250	202	250	5-6	.455	292	260
North Carolina	2-6	.250	129	194	3-8	.273	186	272

— Alan Schmadtke

ACC DECADE IN REVIEW

PROGRAM OF THE DECADE

Florida State Seminoles

The standings speak for themselves. The Seminoles have lost two games in eight seasons in the ACC; next-best, Virginia, lost 26 during the decade. Not only did FSU's 109 wins top the ACC, they topped the country.

They lost only two home games during the 1990s and carried a 46-game home unbeaten string into the new century. They were 62-2 vs. the ACC in the 1990s — 32-0 at home.

At the conclusion of the decade, FSU had spent 86 weeks in a row in the *Associated Press* Top 10.

FSU has given the ACC a Lombardi and Outland winner (Marvin Jones), its only Heisman winner (Charlie Ward) and two national titles (1993 and 1999).

TEAM OF THE DECADE

Florida State, 1993 (12-1)

Tainted by controversy, Bobby Bowden's near-miracle team receives the nod over his only perfect squad (1999). Granted, it's hard to argue with perfection. Right up until Notre Dame stunned the Seminoles 31-24 in a 1 vs. 2 game at South Bend — a game that came down to the final play — this team looked like one of the great college football teams of all time.

Quarterback Charlie Ward won the 1993 Heisman and revolutionized his position with a combination of passing and running. Linebacker Derrick Brooks was the heart of a defense that posted four shutouts.

COACH OF THE DECADE

Bobby Bowden, Florida State

Bowden ended the 1990s by celebrating his 70th birthday and also another national championship appearance (which he won). The country's second-oldest Division I-A coach (trailing only Penn State's Joe Paterno) had a year to remember. He won his 300th career game, and the milestone win came against his son, Tommy, Clemson's head coach.

ACC CHAMPIONS OF THE '90s

Georgia Tech started the decade with the league's first national championship since Clemson in 1981. The Yellow Jackets, led by quarterback Shawn Jones, defensive back Ken Swilling and kicker Scott Sisson, knocked off top-ranked Virginia on a final-minute field goal and then clobbered Nebraska in the Citrus Bowl to share a national crown with Colorado.

Clemson, the ACC power team in much of the 1980s, reasserted itself the next season. Since then, the ACC has been painted almost exclusively in garnet and gold.

Florida State	1992, 1993, 1994, 1995*, 1996, 1997, 1998*, 1999
Georgia Tech	1990, 1998*
Clemson	1991
Virginia	1995*

*Shared ACC title; otherwise won outright

BOWLS IN THE '90s

The ACC sent all nine of its members to at least one bowl in the 1990s.

The league made 46 postseason appearances in the 1990s, finishing with a 24-21-1 record (.533).

With apologies to Florida State's two national title game victories, perhaps the league's most profound bowl success came off the field. Former ACC Commissioner Gene Corrigan and his associate commissioner, Tom Mickle, changed the postseason landscape after the 1992 season. That's when Mickle, while being creative on a cocktail napkin, sketched out the principles of the Bowl Coalition. The consortium of bowls and conferences later became the Bowl Alliance and what today is known as the Bowl Championship Series.

ALL-DECADE TEAM

OFFENSE — First Team	
QB	Charlie Ward, Florida St.
RB	Warrick Dunn, Florida St.
RB	Thomas Jones, Virginia
WR	Torry Holt, N.C. State
WR	Peter Warrick, Florida St.
TE	John Henry Mills, Wake Forest
C	Clay Shiver, Florida St.
OL	Ray Roberts, Virginia
OL	Ben Coleman, Georgia Tech
OL	Kevin Donnalley, N. Carolina
OL	Jeb Flesch, N. Carolina
K	S. Janikowski, Florida St.
AP	Ray Farmer, Duke

OFFENSE — Second Team	
QB	Joe Hamilton, Georgia Tech
RB	Leon Johnson, N. Carolina
RB	LaMont Jordan, Maryland
WR	Herman Moore, Virginia
WR	Desmond Clark, Wake Forest
TE	Freddie Jones, N. Carolina
C	Mike Cheever, Georgia Tech
OL	Stacy Long, Clemson
OL	Lennie Friedman, Duke
OL	Mark Dixon, Virginia
OL	Stacy Seegars, N.C. State
K	Scott Sisson, Georgia Tech
AP	Corey Sawyer, Florida St.

DEFENSE — First Team	
DL	Marcus Jones, N. Carolina
DL	Chester McGlocklin, Clemson
DL	Peter Boulware, Florida St.
DL	Chris Slade, Virginia
LB	Derrick Brooks, Florida St.
LB	Marvin Jones, Florida St.
LB	Anthony Simmons, N. Carolina
CB	Dre' Bly, N. Carolina
S	Antwan Edwards, Clemson
S	Anthony Poindexter, Virginia
CB	Ronde Barber, Virginia
P	Rodney Williams, Clemson

DEFENSE — Second Team	
DL	Reinard Wilson, Florida St.
DL	Coleman Rudolph, Georgia Tech
DL	Greg Ellis, N. Carolina
DL	Rob Bodine, Clemson
LB	Marco Coleman, Georgia Tech
LB	Brian Simmons, N. Carolina
LB	Jamie Sharper, Virginia
CB	Chad Scott, Virginia
S	Robert Carswell, Clemson
S	Brian Dawkins, Clemson
CB	Clifton Abraham, Florida St.
P	Will Brice, Virginia

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE DECADE

Chralie Ward, QB, Florida State (1989-93)

He revolutionized the quarterback position. His mobility and rushing skills, despite the fact the Seminoles ran a Pro-I and not an option-based offense, drew new attention to players with his run-throw skills. As a senior, Ward became the ACC's only Heisman Trophy winner.

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE DECADE

Anthony Poindexter, SS, Virginia (1995-98)

Poindexter was an All-ACC first team player from his sophomore year to his senior year, when he suffered a devastating knee injury. A testament to the respect given him, however, was that he was voted the league's Defensive Player of the Year in 1998 despite missing nearly half of the season.

DECADE STANDINGS

	Conference Games					All Games					
Team	W	L	T	Pct.	CH	W	L	T	Pct.	B	M
Florida State	62	2	0	.969	8	109	13	1	.883	10	8
Virginia	51	26	1	.660	1	78	40	0	.661	8	1
North Carolina	46	31	1	.596	0	78	39	1	.665	7	0
Clemson	45	32	1	.583	1	69	47	1	.594	7	0
Georgia Tech	44	33	1	.571	1	66	49	1	.573	4	0
N.C. State	40	38	0	.513	0	66	51	0	.564	6	0
Maryland	23	53	0	.295	0	38	72	1	.347	1	0
Wake Forest	16	62	0	.205	0	38	74	0	.339	2	0
Duke	15	63	0	.192	0	33	77	0	.300	1	0

CH=Championships won or shared. B=Bowls. M=Major bowls (Rose, Orange, Sugar, Fiesta only)

— Alan Schmadtke

ACC CENTURY IN REVIEW

TEAM OF THE CENTURY

1. 1993 Florida State (12-1)

Heisman Trophy winner Charlie Ward passed for 27 TDs and only four interceptions to give Coach Bobby Bowden his long-sought, first national championship. It was a 12-1 season — Clemson in 1981 and FSU in 1999 scored perfect seasons — but this team was more powerful on both sides of the ball than either of those editions. Freshman Scott Bentley kicked four field goals in the title game vs. Nebraska in the Orange Bowl.

2. 1981 Clemson — Coached by Danny Ford, the Tigers were the nation's only perfect team (12-0), capturing an improbable but consensus national crown after beating Nebraska in the Orange Bowl. Linebacker Jeff Davis and CB Terry Kinard were both named to the All-America team.

3. 1999 Florida State — 27-year-old quarterback Chris Weinke and All-America receiver Peter Warrick guided a team shrouded in controversy through a 12-0 year, Bowden's first perfect season. The Seminoles beat Virginia Tech 46-29 in the national title game at the Sugar Bowl.

4. 1990 Georgia Tech — The Yellow Jackets, led by All-America DB Ken Swilling and versatile QB Shawn Jones, finished 11-0-1 and shared a national championship with one-loss Colorado. Tech manhandled Nebraska at the Florida Citrus Bowl 45-21.

5. 1953 Maryland — The Terps had a 10-0 regular season and won a national title before losing to Oklahoma 7-0 in the Orange Bowl. They scored 298 points, most by a team until 1967.

T6. 1955 Maryland — Jim Tatum's team led the country in rushing defense (83.9 yards a game) in a 10-1 season.

1960 Duke — Led by Outland Trophy winner Mike McGee, beat Arkansas 7-6 in the Cotton Bowl.

1978 Clemson — Were 11-1, losing the second game of the season 12-0 at Georgia, and finished No. 6.

1996 FSU — Four first-round draft picks led 11-0 season, but lost national title in Sugar rematch with Florida.

1984 Maryland — A 9-3 team that scored the greatest comeback in NCAA history: a 42-40 victory at Miami after trailing 31-0 at halftime.

PROGRAM OF THE CENTURY

Clemson Tigers

Not only have the Tigers won more league championships (13) than any other ACC program, they enjoyed some of the ACC's most colorful coaches. Included among them are John Heisman — yes, *that* Heisman — Frank Howard, Charley Pell and Danny Ford.

Clemson was a charter member of the ACC and won its first league title in 1956. It captured three titles in the '50s, three in '60s, one in the '70s, five in the '80s and one in the '90s (1991).

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE CENTURY

Charlie Ward, qb, Florida State (1989-93)

It can be debated that Ward was not the greatest pure quarterback in Atlantic Coast Conference history. What cannot be debated is what he meant to FSU, what he meant to the ACC and just how good an athlete he was. Twice he was named ACC Athlete of the Year, and as a senior, he captured the Heisman Trophy and Sullivan Award.

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE CENTURY

Randy White, dl, Maryland (1972-74)

Given the dominance in the NFL of linebacker Lawrence Taylor of North Carolina, White's choice might seem surprising. But in college, and especially in the ACC, White was as overwhelming up front as Taylor was on Sundays. White won the Outland and Lombardi trophies as a senior, capping a college career when he became known as the "Manster" — half man, half monster.

ALL-CENTURY TEAM

Offense — First Team		Second Team
QB	Charlie Ward, Florida St. (89-93)	Roman Gabriel, N.C. State (60-62)
RB	Ted Brown, N.C. St. (75-78)	Frank Quayle, Virginia (66-68)
RB	Don McCauley, N. Carolina (68-70)	Warrick Dunn, Florida State (93-96)
WR	Torry Holt, N.C. State (95-98)	Herman Moore, Virginia (88-90)
WR	Peter Warrick, Florida St. (96-99)	Mike Quick, N.C. State (77-81)
TE	B. Cunningham, Clemson (73-75)	Claude "Tee" Moorman, Duke (58-60)
C	Jim Richter, N.C. State (76-79)	Billy Bryan, Duke (74-76)
OL	Bob Pellegrini, Maryland (52-55)	Ken Huff, North Carolina (72-74)
OL	Harry Olszewski, Clemson (65-67)	Bill Wohrman, South Carolina (52-54)
OL	Ray Roberts, Virginia (88-91)	Stan Jones, Maryland (51-53)
OL	Mike Sandusky, Maryland (54-56)	Jim Dombrowski, Virginia (82-85)
K	Sebastian Janikowski, FSU (97-99)	Obed Ariri, Clemson (77-80)

Defense — First Team		Second Team
DL	Jeff Bryant, Clemson (79-82)	Andre Wadsworth, Florida St. (94-97)
DL	Randy White, Maryland (72-74)	Ron Carpenter, N.C. State (67-69)
DL	Dennis Byrd, N.C. State (65-67)	Chester McGlocklin, Clemson (88-91)
DL	Mike McGee, Duke (57-59)	Chris Slade, Virginia (89-92)
LB	L. Taylor, N. Carolina (77-80)	Bob Matheson, Duke (64-66)
LB	Jeff Davis, Clemson (78-81)	Mike Curtis, Duke (62-64)
LB	Derrick Brooks, Florida State (91-94)	Chris Hanburger, N. Carolina (62-64)
CB	Donnell Woolford, Clemson (86-88)	Dickie Harris, South Carolina (68-70)
S	A. Poindexter, Virginia (95-98)	Bobby Bryant, South Carolina (65-68)
S	Terry Kinnard, Clemson (79-82)	Ken Swilling, Georgia Tech (88-91)
CB	Dre' Bly, North Carolina (96-98)	Bill Armstrong, Wake Forest (74-76)
P	Johnny Evans, N.C. State (74-77)	Chuck Ramsey, Wake Forest (71-73)

COACH OF THE CENTURY

Frank Howard, Clemson

In 30 years, Howard was 165-118-12, which ranks among the top coaches in college football history. More than that, though, until as late as 1981, Howard didn't so much coach in the ACC as he presided over it. His personality was that dominant, as were his story-telling abilities. His genius was his flexibility. In three decades he ran three offenses — the Single Wing, the I-Formation and the T-Formation. Howard was named ACC Coach of the Year twice (1959 and 1966) and captured six conference championships in the first 15 years of the league.

CENTURY STANDINGS

	ACC Games					Overall				
Team	W	L	T	Pct.	CH	W	L	T	Pct.	Bowls (W-L)
Florida St.	62	2	0	.969	8	381	183	17	.670	28 (17-9-2)
Clemson	183	98	6	.648	13	541	384	42	.581	23 (12-11)
N. Carolina	170	138	5	.551	5	526	387	48	.572	23 (11-12)
Maryland	158	134	4	.541	8	507	444	37	.532	17 (6-9-2)
N.C. State	157	138	8	.531	7	462	460	52	.502	19 (8-10-1)
GA Tech	61	57	2	.517	2	589	384	41	.601	28 (19-9)
Duke	127	163	8	.440	7	423	361	31	.538	8 (3-5)
Virginia	113	169	4	.402	2	487	454	40	.517	11 (4-7)
Wake Forest	87	221	5	.286	1	338	528	31	.394	5 (3-2)

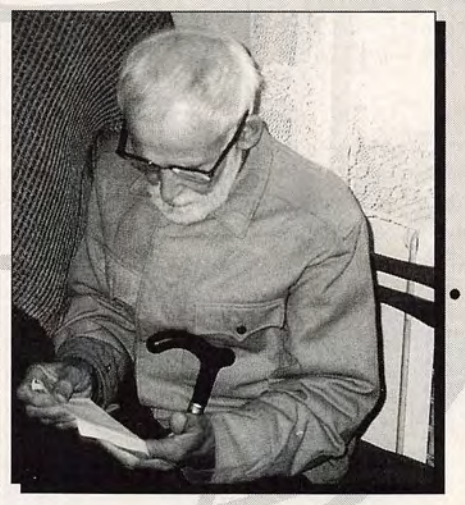
CH=League championships won or shared.

— Alan Schmadtke

We think we can save the world:
One person at a time

Children should not have to go to bed hungry at night.

The ability to see clearly is often a gift taken for granted.



Life International

Call 1 800/923-5580
E-mail: LifeIntlHQ@aol.com
Visit us on the web: www.lifeintl.org

We believe we are our "brother's keeper". We are dedicated to meeting human needs in underdeveloped countries around the world.

chasing

The persistent image of Florida State's defensive ends is this: At the snap of the ball, two men fly from the corners with dead aim on the quarterback. That, and a quarterback limping — or being carried — to the sideline with a new bruise or break, or two.

Chasing and erasing quarterbacks, that's how FSU's ends are schooled during the week and that's what they carry out on Saturdays ... and eventually on Sundays.

Reinard Wilson, Peter Boulware, Andre Wadsworth and Greg Spires have homes in the NFL today because of their proficiency at harassing passers.

One season, the Seminoles knocked out all but three starting quarterbacks from games. Former Georgia Tech quarterback Joe Hamilton grew into something of a poster boy for the rest of the Atlantic Coast Conference long before his Heisman Trophy chase of 1999. He started four games against Florida State. He wobbled off the field, injured, in the first three.

However enduring or powerful, these images fail to paint today's reality.

Despite FSU's legacy of pass rushing stars, the Seminoles' defensive ends of 2000 have an objective more fundamental than leading the world in sacks.

They want their reputation back.

And in a year when defensive coordinator Mickey Andrews carries in questions about his linebackers and lets go two high-caliber defensive tackles, FSU's defense might hinge on how well Roland Seymour, Jamal Reynolds and David Warren — all seniors — live up to their billing.

"I came to FSU because the expectations are so high," said Reynolds, whose seven sacks led FSU in 1999. "The ends are expected to play at a high level."

In the 2000 season, they probably must play at that level, certainly at a level higher than in recent seasons. The Seminoles had 29 sacks in 1999. Ends recorded 11 of them. Consider that three years earlier, Boulware had 19 by himself. Wadsworth logged 16 the year after that.

The Seminoles' team sack totals have dropped, too. Wilson and Boulware led the charge that resulted in a school-record 67 sacks in 1996. It was 64 in 1997.

The totals were bound to drop, and they have, to 40 in 1998 and down 11 more last season. In addition, Reynolds was named to the All-ACC second team. Seymour was an honorable mention all-league pick.

It marked the first time since 1995 that no FSU defensive end was on the All-ACC first team. Part of the reason was the strength of the league's interior linemen; quality defensive tackles were abundant in 1999.

Another part of the equation was the league's selection process. The voting panel does not pick tackles and ends — just linemen, no matter where they line up.

Regardless of the criteria and the other players, FSU's rush specialists tell themselves there's another reason they received second-tier recognition: They didn't play very well ... certainly not to their potential.

"We got 29 as a team last year, and we've had years when one guy almost had that," said longtime defensive ends coach Jim Gladden. "That's a pretty high standard."

Said Seymour: "We had a good year as a group. Not a great year, but a good year. We did some good things, but we just didn't have as many sacks. We still got after the quarterback pretty good most of the time. But we can do better."

They will try to do so without benefit of fearsome defensive tackles. Gone are Corey Simon and Jerry Johnson, two interior linemen who certainly absorbed more attention from offensive linemen in 1999 than their replacements — likely Chris Woods and Tony Benford — will receive through the early stages of 2000.

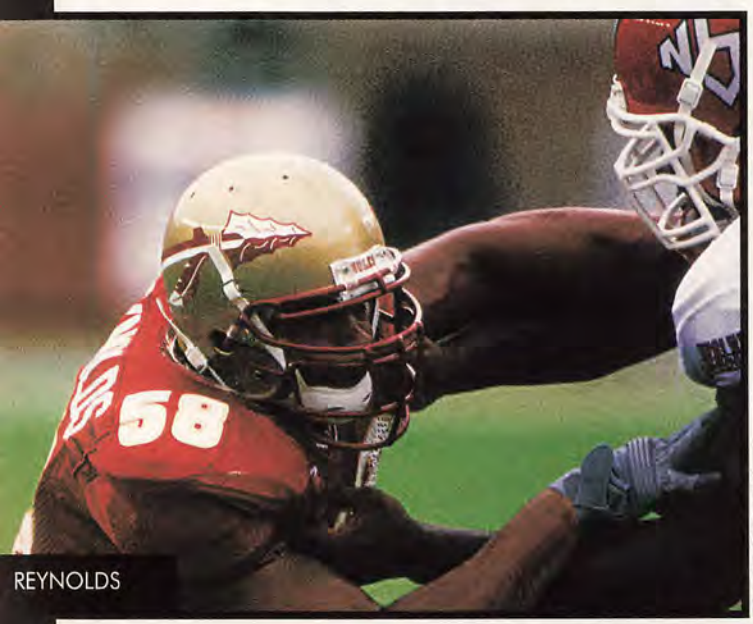
Before Seymour can improve, he must rehabilitate. He enters fall practice with a reconstructed knee and a surgically enhanced shoulder. Considered FSU's top pass rusher, Seymour sustained a torn anterior cruciate ligament in the Seminoles' national championship victory over Virginia Tech in the Sugar Bowl.

The injury came after school officials cleared Seymour to play in the game after it was revealed he accepted free workouts at a Houston gym in the summer of 1999. Seymour paid $447.60 in restitution, which went to charity. The injury also changed his life plans.

Knowing that boyhood friend Raynoch Thompson, a linebacker at Tennessee, planned to give up a final year of eligibility, Seymour, too, was ready to make such a jump following the Sugar Bowl. His knee injury ended his plan, setting the stage for surgery, rehab and, for the Seminoles, a seemingly deep corps of defensive ends.

Gladden said he believes Seymour will be ready for FSU's season opener against Brigham Young, again giving him the ability to rotate the trio of Seymour, Reynolds and Warren. Gladden and each of the players acknowledge that the ends simply must make more happen ... if not for the legacy of the position, then for the professional careers of the Seminoles who hold the position.

"We talk about the great ends who have played here all the time," Gladden said. "It's not something I harp on



REYNOLDS

TOMASSO DEROSA/TDSI

SCOTT HALLERAN

a n d erasing

Florida State's Rush Hour Begins at the Ends

BY ALAN SCHMADTKE

Offenses, he said, are swapping a receiver for a running back. The days of a defensive end racing around a slow-footed offensive tackle with a free shot at a quarterback's blind side are all but gone. Instead, ends slip tackles with a nifty swim move, then encounter a fullback or running back inserted not as a safety-valve receiver, but specifically as a pass protector.

Look no further than FSU's national championship victory against Virginia Tech. Corey Moore, the Hokies' All-American end, recorded zero sacks.

"Corey Moore is a great player, but even if you're a great player there's only so many men you can take on and beat," Gladden said. "We planned for Corey Moore. Every play he got hit by more than one person.

"We saw that with our ends last year, and we'll see it this year. The because these guys all know. They hear about it from teammates, and those guys (former players) call and talk to our guys and let them know what's expected."

"Defensive end is a glamorous position at Florida State," said Warren, who started four games in 1999 when Seymour was out with injuries.

"We have one of the best schemes, a 4-3 defense that lets us go get the quarterback. The people prior to me have all done well and gone on to the NFL. We are talking about first-rounders. And we have some future first-rounders with Jamal and Roland."

As much as he tries to motivate his troops, Gladden said a trend lurks behind lowered sack numbers. Given the increasing number of defenses putting a priority on finding pass-rushing specialists, offenses are reacting by scheming for them.

game has changed. Offenses understand they have a better chance at getting a first down with only two receivers in the pattern if they can protect their quarterback than with five guys out there running around and their quarterback on his back.

"They're taking that third and fourth receiver out and putting in somebody else so they can max-protect (the quarterback). To get to the quarterback, an end has to beat his guy and then beat somebody else after that."

Part and parcel of this scheme is another strategy: Offensive coordinators are insisting their quarterbacks have fewer reads, make quicker decisions and deliver their passes in record time. More than two-thirds of the pass attempts against the Seminoles in 1999 were delivered in less than three seconds.

Then there's the issue of the quarterback himself.

"Last year was hard because we faced a lot of quick, mobile quarterbacks," Reynolds said.

Seymour is considered the team's top pass rusher, but if his knee delays his return, then Reynolds and Warren will have little trouble filling in. Reynolds started every game last season after a monstrous spring practice really opened some eyes.

The knock on Reynolds during his early years at FSU was that he was too mechanical, too robotic. That description no longer fits. Playing behind Wadsworth, Spires and Seymour, and watching Warren and others, Reynolds is learning to play more instinctively.

Warren, a former *USA Today* Defensive Player of the Year out of Tyler (Texas) High School, was blindsided by two mysterious seizures in 1998 before doctors diagnosed him as having epilepsy. He takes medication to control his seizures. Neither the seizures nor the medication has slowed his on-field development, he said.

He forced three fumbles last season, and led the defensive front by knocking down four passes.

"I'm kind of selfish right now," said Warren, who coaches would like to see shed his gentlemanly personality for a meaner, take-no-prisoners version. "I am looking to make all the sacks. I missed so many (last year). I was right there but didn't get them."

Being right there fits Florida State's image. Getting there completes it.

"We just want to get to the quarterback," Seymour said. "Whatever we have to do to do that, that's what we'll do." ■

Amato Takes a Chance to Give N.C. State Security Be

BY DENNIS DODD

Chuck Amato knows well that North Carolina State's athletic roots are deeply imbedded in basketball bedrock.

"The two sports can work hand-in-hand," the latest Wolfpack football coach insists as he returns to his alma mater. "You say ACC and a lot of people say basketball, but when you start looking at a lot of teams in the conference, Florida State has been a big help."

The man knows North Carolina State, and he knows Florida State, where he's spent the past 18 years. That passion for State and that success at FSU gives Amato a background Wolfpack faithful hope leads to growing an honest-to-goodness football tradition.

Yet, leaving the title of Bobby Bowden's top assistant and linebackers coach is not a decision Amato made lightly. He knows too well that the safe, secure, winning cocoon surrounds assistants at Florida State like a comforter on a cold Saturday morning.

Most coaches spend their entire careers striving to find that kind of security and consistency for their families.

And some of those that have left Bobby Bowden's side have done so at their own peril.

The last coaches to leave as a group had their lives significantly altered. Brad Scott, the former offensive coordinator, left for South Carolina in 1994, taking defensive line coach Wally Burnham, receivers coach John Eason, and a graduate assistant with him.

Five years later, Scott had failed to turn around the program and was fired. Scott landed on his feet, going to Clemson to become an assistant coach for Tommy Bowden. Eason, the Gamecocks former offensive coordinator, was teaching at the University of Central Florida.

More than a year after Scott was fired, Burnham was working for a contracting company in Columbia, S.C. Contacted in January, Burnham's first words were, "How did you find me here?"

"I know coaches who left for the first job (they were offered) and five years later, they were looking for a job," Bowden said before Amato was the sixth of his assistants to be hired away as a head coach. "There is some security here."

The warning is implicit: Be careful what you wish for, it might not ever be as good as Florida State.

Amato, 53, goes into reviving football at a basketball school with his eyes wide open.

That condition, however, has nothing to do with overcoming naivete. When your heart never leaves a place, it's hard to say no. Amato played at North Carolina State. He got his start in coaching from Lou Holtz who hired Amato as a graduate assistant to coach the secondary.

"Lou Holtz gave me my start in life," Amato said, "He took a chance."

Amato sees things that others don't about North Carolina State. He came from Pennsylvania wanting to play football and wrestle. Other schools balked. "They never hedged on it," he said of State. He saw the Research Triangle grow into a diverse national economic force that could benefit the area academically and athletically.

Two years ago he witnessed his old school jump up and upset the Seminoles.

It could happen ... it really could happen.

"You can look at some of the teams they've had here," Amato said. "It shows it can be done."

Torry Holt, who engineered that 1998 upset, now wears a Super Bowl ring with the St. Louis Rams. Record-setting quarterback Jamie Barnette just left. Now, perhaps, the stakes have been raised in the venerable basketball conference at his venerable basketball school.

Two former Bowden assistants dot the Florida State schedule. Son Tommy has things up and humming at Clemson, which almost beat the Seminoles last season. Amato raises the stakes at North Carolina State.

Amato is given credit for mining the rich Miami-Dade County area for talent. His list of recruits range from Peter Boulware to Marvin Jones to Andre Wadsworth to Daryl Bush to Derrick Alexander.

So in that way Florida State will be a big help to North Carolina State. Amato can flash two national championship rings, speak passionately about the cause and get players to believe. He did it once, he'll do it again.

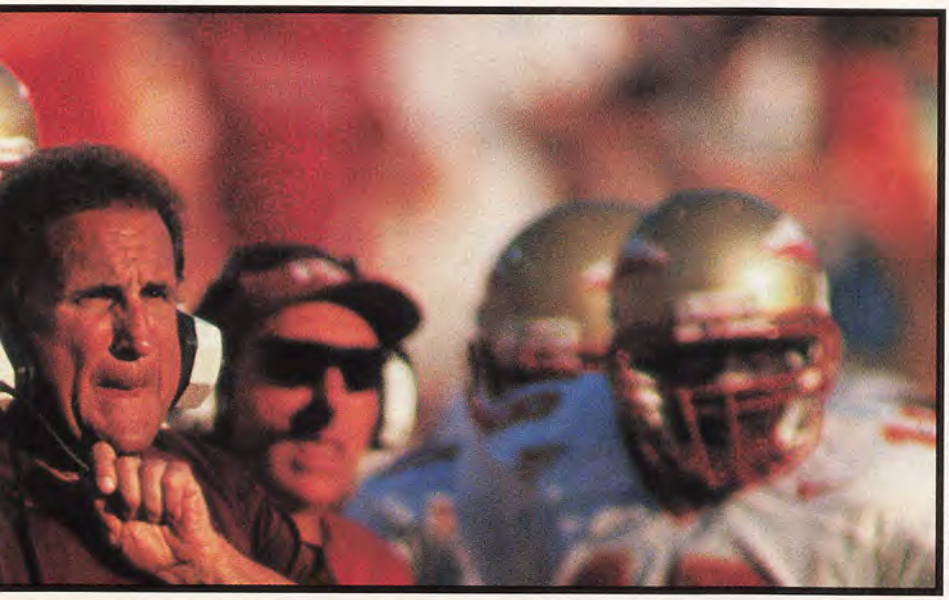
"I remember when I first got to Florida State, the facilities there were just horrid," Amato said. "I made a statement to one of the coaches one day, 'You kind of did this backwards, you built the program, now you're going to build the facilities.'

"Basketball and football can work hand-in-hand here. You bring prospects in on a basketball weekend, they get to stand in that basketball arena worth 150-160 million dollars. You put 19,000 people in there and it's pretty impressive."

Fourteen of his 18 years at Florida State were spent as assistant head coach. By the time he left, Amato was not only coaching linebackers, but was running the

a Football Identity

Damned



SCOTT HALLERAN/ALLSPORT USA

program as Bowden's right-hand administrative man.

"He made it clear," Amato said of Bowden, "he wanted me to stay."

But Bowden wasn't going to hold him back. His only request was that Wolfpack athletic director Les Robinson wait until after the Sugar Bowl to name Amato.

That's how important Amato was to Florida State, and the fact that State waited indicates how much Amato was wanted.

"We met in Atlanta," Robinson said. "I was just extremely impressed with his questions. I talked with a lot of head coaches and a lot of assistant coaches during the 40-odd day period of the search. Chuck's line of questioning was excellent. You learn a lot about people just in what they're asking you.

"It told me he was ready to be a head coach."

Amato wasn't Robinson's first choice, according to reports. Maybe not even second. Georgia coach Jim Donnan, another North Carolina State alum, was on the list. So was Stanford's Tyrone Willingham.

But after the interview, Robinson says he knew he had his man.

Amato has a reputation as a great recruiter, and has an administrative background many first-time head coaches lack. He coached on the defensive side of the ball, and is coming from a program that exposed him to great offense.

But it wasn't like Amato was begging. He'd had job offers other places. Hell, he could have stayed at Florida State as a lifer, maybe even succeeding Bowden. Who knows? The money and football were great.

But in his sixth decade of life, it was time for Amato to make a go of it on his own ... at a place where he has long felt he could make a difference.

By some reports, it was his fourth try for the job. It kept coming open, and he kept being interested, but he was never hired.

When Amato spoke at his introductory press conference, smiles broke out and hearts melted. He sweated under the television lights; he almost cried; he regaled the faithful with stories of the past. (Did you know that Amato suggested players paint their shoes white during the 1967 Liberty Bowl season? The 9-2 Wolfpack of that season became known as "The White Shoes Gang.")

So when Amato spoke of being Susan Lucci, the quintessential runner-up, finally winning his "Oscar," it made sense. Nobody cared if Lucci really won an Emmy. Give Amato credit for at least risking rejection in the same way.

"He's the Jim Valvano of football," former Florida State athletic director Bob Goin told reporters, alluding to his personality, not necessarily that he'll bring State a national championship to match Valvano's 1983 hoop title.

He'll likely make a habit of showing up at Valvano's old haunt — Amedeo's. That's one of the best restaurants in Raleigh, owned by another family from Pennsylvania, who Amato says his family has known since before World War II. Amato and DeAngelis Amedeo played football together at North Carolina State, and whenever FSU played in the Triangle, Amato would round up a group of pals to go eat and yak with his old buddy.

Enough with the niceties.

It's going to be tough to win at Raleigh. It always is. Those nippy Saturday mornings may never be as cozy as they were with the Seminoles.

The football gods were probably dropping a great big hint when they dropped a huge snowstorm on Raleigh the week Amato was hired.

He knows it's not all going to be warm and fuzzy. This is a place that jettisoned good-guy Mike O'Cain following a 41-40 record in his seven years.

North Carolina State serious about football? Well, yes.

Amato told Robinson a key would be to pay assistant coaches top dollar. That's how you get and keep good people. So, nine assistants are splitting more than $1 million, which makes it one of the highest paid staffs in the country.

If the money isn't in the budget, it sure is coming. The new Entertainment and Sports Arena will generate nearly $3 million more per year than old Reynolds Coliseum, according to Robinson.

In case you missed it, that's revenue from the new basketball arena at an old basketball school. Even Amato knows that before changing the perception he has to change the program. ■

If Grades Can't Stop the Maryland Back, How Will Linebackers Do?

This was no way to start a Heisman Trophy campaign. | Spring ball was about to begin at Maryland, one of those hope-springs-eternal kind of times ... but instead of talking about all the wonderful possibilities that might be in store in the fall, the university was dispersing information of a more sobering nature. | The news concerned star running back LaMont Jordan and his "academic status." | And it wasn't good.

Coach Ron Vanderlinden announced that Jordan's grades were slipping — to the point where Maryland wanted to be sure to give him all the support he needed to stay eligible for the 2000 season, when he figures to be one of college football's brightest stars.

Poor grades meant concentrating on school work, which meant no spring ball.

It's a strange thing, really, because it's not that Jordan isn't bright. Quite the contrary. He is intelligent, thoughtful and speaks with a certain eloquence and honesty.

"I think school is only as hard as I make it," said Jordan, the NCAA's leading active rusher with 3,227 yards. "The work is not that hard. I can actually do the work. I'm just looking for the right thing to motivate me.

"A lot of people say, 'Well, getting your degree should be motivation enough.' But it's easier said than done. Just going across the stage (at graduation) and getting a piece of paper isn't motivation enough to sit down and read a book when you're tired."

Having his final year of eligibility in peril sounds like good motivation to hit the books in earnest, and for him to embrace the resources available. He admits he's headstrong — not such a bad quality for a football player who needs to believe he can bulldoze a linebacker, but not such a great one for a student who could use a little help.

"A lot of it is partially me being a very stubborn person," Jordan said of his academic difficulties. "That's just who I am. Sometimes I think my downfall since I've been in college is accepting help. I don't like accepting help.

"I figure if I'm going to do something wrong, then I'm going to suffer the consequence for it. That's life — that's just growing up."

Missing 15 spring practices shouldn't be a big deal for an accomplished veteran such as Jordan.

As Vanderlinden said: "If there's one player who can afford to miss spring practice, it's Lamont Jordan."

To be sure, his football talents (even sans spring ball) are substantial enough to make him an All-American.

Jordan was college football's second-leading rusher in 1999, averaging 148.8 yards a game. During the second half of the season, he pumped that up to 183.5 yards per game ... and nobody in college — not Ron Dayne, not Thomas Jones, not LaDainian Tomlinson — did it better.

Jordan boosted his rushing average with 306 yards in the Terrapins' crushing loss to Virginia in the season finale, an unlikely defeat in the final minute that left Maryland at 5-6 and out of the postseason.

It was a tough final month of the season for the team, but Jordan did all he could. Talk about reliable: In 288 touches, he fumbled once.

Jordan is comfortable with two kinds of running styles. He is fast enough to cut outside and elude tacklers. He is solid enough (5-11, 219 pounds) to run over others.

He seems to like dishing out a blow just as much as trying to escape one.

"That's just me, I guess. A lot of people look at me and don't think I'll run over somebody," Jordan said. "That's been my style in high school and that's been my style in college. You just have to lower your shoulder sometimes and pick up those extra yards.

"You lower your shoulder on somebody one time, and you keep lowering your shoulder on them, and eventually they're going to give in. That's kind of what I'm thinking.

"I'm smart with them. I'm not going to try and run over some 300-pound lineman. But you'd better believe that when I get to the linebackers and get to the secondary, I'm going to try and go through those people. It's just a matter of doing the right thing at the right time."

Jordan made enough of the right moves early in his life to put bitterness in the background. He's entitled to his share, considering there is a father whom he never really knew.

Jordan and his older brother had two different fathers. His mother raised them both, and his maternal grandmother and grandfather, who live in Virginia, were also influential forces.

"It's been a tough thing, because I would have liked to have known at least what he looked like — if I'm shaped like him, if I look like him," Jordan said of his father.

"It still hits me — there's still a side of me wanting to see pictures of him and wanting to see him. But as far as meeting him and getting to know him, I couldn't care less.

"Because he wasn't there for me. I don't know if I'm built like him or things like that. As far as I know, he's just another person."

Jordan isn't growing up to be just another person. He is on the verge of something special.

"Everyone always wants to grow up as a young kid and be a star. Right now, I'm living that role," Jordan said.

Maryland football has had its share of impact players who enjoyed long and successful NFL careers — Boomer Esiason, Frank Wycheck, Randy White — but

LaMont Jordan Brings His 'A' Game

BY MIKE LURIE

rarely has there been someone to promote for the Heisman Trophy.

"I'm about winning games," Jordan said. "You look at this past year — Ron Dayne (of Wisconsin) won the Heisman Trophy, but Peter Warrick (Florida State) won the national championship. I would definitely appreciate the national championship a lot more."

Now, in his right mind, Jordan knows Maryland is not winning the national title. But he sees no reason why Maryland shouldn't aspire to being one of the teams that makes Florida State actually work for its annual Atlantic Coast Conference championship … or maybe even be the team to take it away.

"My main focus is the ACC championship," Jordan said.

"A lot of people here keep saying Maryland needs to get to a bowl game. That's not me. I'm not one of these people that's going to go out here and just try to get to a bowl game.

"I think for years now the University of Maryland has just been trying to get to bowl games, and we've been falling short. If we play and sincerely believe in our hearts that we can be ACC champs, then we will go to a bowl game."

Maryland had its chances last season. The Terps were 5-2 at one point, but skidded to the finish on a four-game losing streak that included a setback to Duke and that painful defeat to Virginia. So much for a once-promising season.

As winter progressed, though, Jordan had something of a revelation. He saw his own time running out — one final season as a Terrapin, one season for which he is the center of a publicity blitz.

One season to do everything right.

"It just hit me when I saw the (spring) media guide and I was on the front and the back of it, and it was just me," Jordan said. "And I was like, 'Dang, this is, like, big-time.'

"You know, you grow up all the time wanting to be a star. This is your moment. So I think right now I just have to make sure I'm straight academically."

With those words, Jordan revealed what is almost a guarantee that he will put the proper effort into his school work, which will, in turn, allow him to make the statement he wants to make on the field this season.

When it is over, odds are he will be among the nation's top rushers, which will make him high on the postseason awards lists. His ultimate satisfaction would come from leading the Terrapins to a winning season.

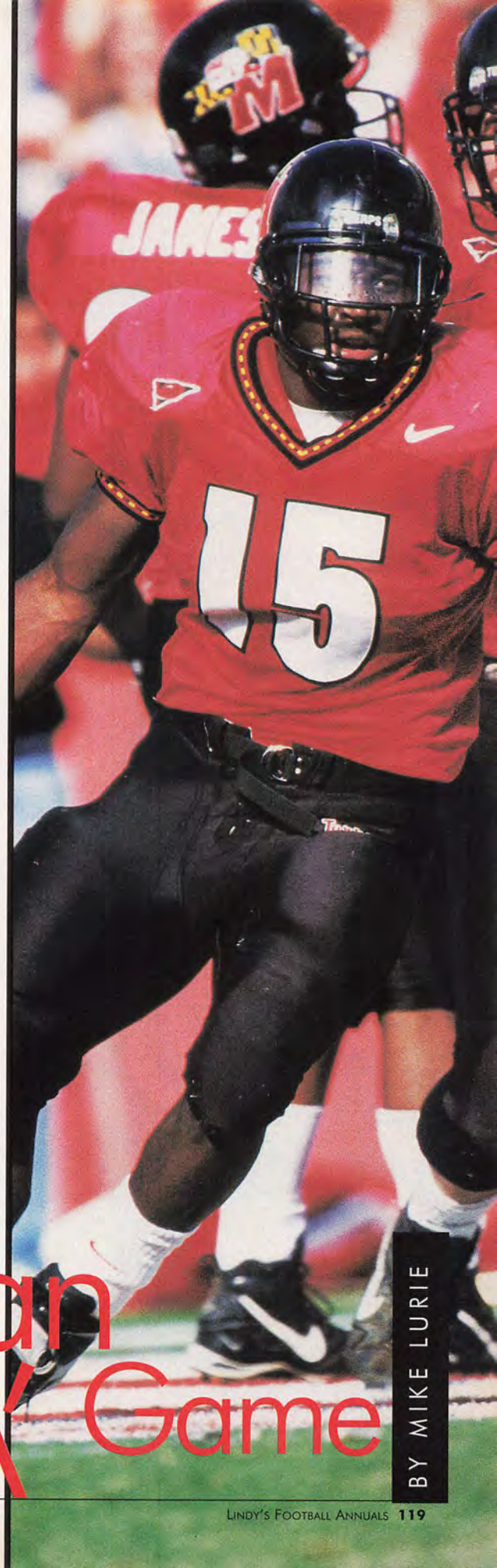
Once those goals are met, Jordan can take some satisfaction from working hard on he field and in the classroom.

Even more satisfying, though, will be the fact Jordan did it his way. When he was ready. At his own pace.

"Coaches can tell me to do one thing. Teachers can tell me to do another thing. But most of the time my feeling is, 'If it's right for me,' " Jordan said.

"Not that I completely disregard what the coaching staff says, because I do what they say. But when it comes to things I have control over, I try my best to have it go the way I want it to go."

He would like to go to New York City for the Heisman Trophy ceremony, and then go to a nice bowl game. With Jordan in the proper frame of mind, there's no reason, he couldn't end up in both places. ■



TOMASSO DEROSA/TDSI

92

CLEMSON TIGERS

This is dangerous territory for second-year Tiger coach Tommy Bowden. Expectations haven't been this high since the Danny Ford days in the 1980s, back when Clemson bullied its basketball-oriented brethren in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Tiger Offense Set for High Gear

Those days have changed, most significantly because of the addition of Florida State and the decline in Tiger football.

Bowden's rookie year in Death Valley should be considered a success by any measure. But around these parts, it can only be calculated as a marginal success.

It was a success in that Clemson improved by three wins and went to the Peach Bowl, where a loss to Mississippi State left the team 6-6.

It was marginal because, as excited as the faithful were by Bowden's first season, another .500 mark won't cut it.

"Under the circumstances, with the schedule, the number of home games, who we lost last year, new staff, new philosophy, all that in consideration, I was pleased," Bowden said. "I'm not satisfied with 6-6, but I'm pleased with what happened this first year. Had this been 6-6 in my third year or my fourth year, I'd probably not be as excited as I am now."

As far as expectations go, these are high times. The school is riding the new wave of excitement with multi-million dollar improvement projects for football. The school is renovating the east end zone of Memorial Stadium and a new training room will be ready by the start of the season.

These expectations must be accompanied by wins, however, especially in a league with just one other school that boasts itself as a "football school," Florida State. And Papa's got a pretty good "football school" at that.

"We'd like to get back to the days where year in and year out, on a consistent basis, we're competing for a national championship," Bowden said. "It hasn't been like that in a while. We'd eventually like to be in the position to win a national championship. At Tulane, we were undefeated, but we weren't in a position to win the national championship. Here, if we go undefeated, we are. And you could possibly do it with one loss."

The Tigers lost quarterback Brandon Streeter, but little else to graduation. An experienced Woody Dantzler, who threw more than 200 passes as a sophomore and finished as the team's second-leading rusher, is back at the helm of the Tigers' fast-break, no-huddle offense.

Dantzler played well enough in the spring to hold off hot-shot redshirt freshman Willie Simmons, although the battle is certain to continue in the fall and perhaps into the season. Simmons is nicknamed "Shotgun" because of his strong arm, but he doesn't offer the threat as a runner that Dantzler does.

"I don't think the starting quarterback job will be settled until the first ball game, if then," offensive coordinator Rich Rodriguez said. "I feel pretty good that we'll be solid at the quarterback position and have some depth there."

Dantzler is often referred to as a running back playing quarterback. But he played better than expected as the engineer of the spread offense that requires the quarterback to make a number of reads at the line.

In 10 games, Dantzler threw for 1,506 yards and nine touchdowns against five interceptions. He completed 55.7 percent of his passes.

"I thought Woody's progress was a surprise to a lot of people," said Bowden, who included himself among those people. "I didn't know what to expect. I had seen Brandon because he has been a starter. Woody hadn't been. But he came in the North Carolina game and played well. Played well in the Maryland game, the Georgia Tech game. Put up 42 points against Georgia Tech. Those games stand out."

TERRY JOLLY, A SECOND-TEAM ALL-ACC TACKLE, WILL TEAM WITH JASON HOLLOMAN TO HOLD DOWN THE MIDDLE.

PHOTO BY TOMASSO DEROSA/TDSI

at a glance

TIGERS

1999: 6-6 Overall; 5-3 ACC (T/2nd)

COACH: Tommy Bowden — At Clemson 6-6, 1 year; Overall 25-10, 3 years

RETURNING STARTERS: 17; 8 Offense, 8 Defense, Kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH: QB Woody Dantzler, WR Rod Gardner, WR Kevin Youngblood, LB Keith Adams, S Robert Carswell, DT Terry Jolly

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: With an experienced quarterback in Woody Dantzler and a reliable backup in Willie Simmons, the offense is sitting on a green light. Rod Gardner is primed for his second 1,000-yard receiving season. The offense should be better able to control the ball, which should wear out some defenses.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: The Tigers don't have a reliable placekicker. Tony Lazzara is inconsistent (seven of 12). That could cause problems in close games.

OVERVIEW: A softer schedule and another year for the players to figure out Tommy Bowden's offense should equate into more victories. The Tigers don't figure to be ready to knock Florida State off its pedestal, but they lost by just three last season.

TIGERS RECRUITING

Name / Position	Size	Hometown	High School / College
BRANTLEY, Derrick OL	6-5, 300	Mullins	SW Mississippi JC

PrepStar All-American ◆ Rated No. 37 junior college player nationally by *SuperPrep* ◆ Enrolled for spring semester ◆ Has three years eligibility remaining ◆ Prep All-State ◆ Helped team to 21-4 record and state playoffs.

CARR, Brian QB 6-1, 185 Conyers, GA Heritage

Two-time All-Area ◆ As a senior, had 1,101 yards passing and 10 touchdowns ◆ Had 612 yards rushing and eight touchdowns ◆ Had 850 yards passing and 333 yards rushing as a junior.

DELUSME, Ronny DB 6-2, 185 Naples, FL Lely

PrepStar All-Southeast Region ◆ Had 11 touchdowns as a senior (four rushing, three on kickoff returns, two on receptions and two on blocked punts) ◆ Had 37 tackles, six tackles for loss, and two interceptions ◆ Had 400 yards rushing ◆ Averaged 50 yards per reception.

GRANT, J. R. DL 6-4, 200 Lake Wales, FL Winter Haven

SuperPrep All-Southeast Region, rated No. 56 player in Florida ◆ Two-time All-District ◆ As a senior, had 72 tackles and 14 quarterback sacks ◆ Has school record 39 career quarterback sacks ◆ Had 31 receptions for 500 yards ◆ Team captain ◆ Three-year letterman ◆ All-District in basketball.

HAMILTON, Derrick WR 6-4, 190 Dillon Dillon

SuperPrep All-American, ranked No. 20 wide receiver nationally ◆ Rated No. 8 player in South Carolina by *The State* ◆ All-State ◆ As a senior, had 36 receptions for 745 yards and nine touchdowns ◆ Returned eight kickoffs for touchdowns ◆ Had eight interceptions, including three returned for touchdowns ◆ Averaged 23 points per game for basketball team.

HEMBY, Ryan DB 5-10, 175 Orangeburg Orangeburg Wilkinson

SuperPrep All-American, rated No. 13 player in South Carolina ◆ Ranked No. 12 player in South Carolina by *The State* ◆ All-State ◆ Two-time All-Region ◆ Had 80 tackles as a senior ◆ Had 17 career interceptions ◆ Three-year letterman ◆ All-State in track.

HUEY, Terrance RB 5-9, 170 Marietta, GA Marietta

SuperPrep All-Dixie Region, ranked No. 45 player in Georgia ◆ As a senior, had 1,281 yards rushing and 13 touchdowns ◆ Returned two kickoffs and two blocked punts for touchdowns ◆ Two-year letterman in football and track ◆ Holds state record in long jump.

HUNT, Aaron PK 5-11, 210 Oak Ridge, TN Oak Ridge

All-State ◆ All-Region ◆ All-East Tennessee ◆ Region Kicker of the Year ◆ Made school record 52-yard field goal as a senior ◆ Made 10 of 16 field goals ◆ Converted 41 of 45 extra points ◆ Only 15 of 71 kickoffs were returned.

Name / Position	Size	Hometown	High School / College
JAMISON, Brandon LB	6-1, 190	Hopkins	Lower Richland

The State ranked No. 6 player in South Carolina ◆ All-State ◆ All-Region ◆ As a senior, had 161 tackles, including seven tackles for loss, and five quarterback sacks ◆ Had 1,112 yards on offense and 13 touchdowns ◆ Had 140 tackles and 14 quarterback sacks as a junior ◆ Runs 4.4 in 40-yard dash.

JOHNSON, Cedric OL 6-4, 310 Barwick, GA Thomas County Central

Honorable mention All-State ◆ All-Southwest Georgia ◆ All-Region ◆ Team captain ◆ Bench presses 440 pounds.

KELLY, Keith RB 6-0, 215 Walterboro Walterboro

SuperPrep All-American, rated No. 19 running back nationally and No. 6 player in South Carolina ◆ *Rivals100.com* All-Southeast Region, ranked No. 11 running back nationally ◆ Sports Alliance All-Southeast ◆ Two-time All-State ◆ Had 4,200 career yards rushing and 52 touchdowns.

LEAKE, John LB 6-2, 210 Plano, TX Plano East

All-District on offense and defense ◆ Had 140 tackles and 10 quarterback sacks as a senior ◆ Rushed for 900 yards and 11 touchdowns ◆ Helped team to semi-finals of state playoffs ◆ Two-year starter ◆ Had 85 tackles as a junior ◆ Member of basketball, baseball and track teams.

McCLINTON, Todd TE 6-6, 250 Columbia C. A. Johnson

SuperPrep All-American, ranked No. 5 tight end nationally ◆ Rated No. 1 tight end nationally by *Rivals100.com* and Border Wars ◆ Ranked No. 3 player in South Carolina by *The State* ◆ All-State ◆ All-Midlands ◆ As a senior, had 32 receptions for 663 yards and six touchdowns ◆ Had 450 yards rushing and five touchdowns on 47 carries ◆ Had 53 career receptions for 1,163 yards and 11 touchdowns ◆ Averaged 18 points, 10 rebounds and three blocked shots per game for basketball team.

THOMAS, Ronnie WR 5-11, 190 Quincy, FL Shanks

SuperPrep All-American, rated No. 50 player in Florida ◆ *Rivals100.com* ranked No. 10 receiver nationally ◆ *PrepStar* All-Southeast Region ◆ Rated No. 25 player in Florida by *Florida Times Union* ◆ All-State ◆ Had 130 career receptions for 2,850 yards and 37 touchdowns ◆ Had 58 receptions for 1,150 yards and 11 touchdowns as a senior ◆ As a junior, had 45 receptions for 1,045 yards and 14 touchdowns.

WASHINGTON, Donnell DL 6-6, 270 Beaufort Battery Creek

SuperPrep All-American, ranked No. 17 player in South Carolina ◆ Rated No. 22 defensive lineman nationally by *Rivals100.com* ◆ *The State* ranked No. 3 defensive lineman in South Carolina ◆ *Sports Report* All-State ◆ Two-time All-Region ◆ Three-time All-Conference ◆ As a senior, had 75 tackles and 16 quarterback sacks ◆ Two-year letterman in basketball and track.

A LOOK AT THE TIGERS

RESULTS

(6-6, 5-3)

10	Marshall	13
33	Virginia	14
11	Virginia Tech	31
31	North Carolina	20
31	N.C. State	35
42	Maryland	30
14	Florida State	17
12	Wake Forest	3
58	Duke	7
42	Georgia Tech	45
31	South Carolina	21
	Peach Bowl	
7	Mississippi State	17

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Passing

Name	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int
Dantzler	195	111	1501	56.9	9	5
Streeter	166	111	1165	67.7	4	5

Rushing

Name	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD
Zachery	184	827	4.5	44	16
Dantzler	137	580	4.2	56	4
Rambert	25	136	5.4	24	2
Austin	36	120	3.3	18	2

Receiving

Name	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD
Gardner	73	1009	13.8	49	4
Wofford	54	648	12.0	42	3
Lawyer	34	350	10.3	48	3
Zachery	17	186	10.9	31	0

Defensive Leaders

Tackles: Adams 176; Carson 126; Carswell 122.

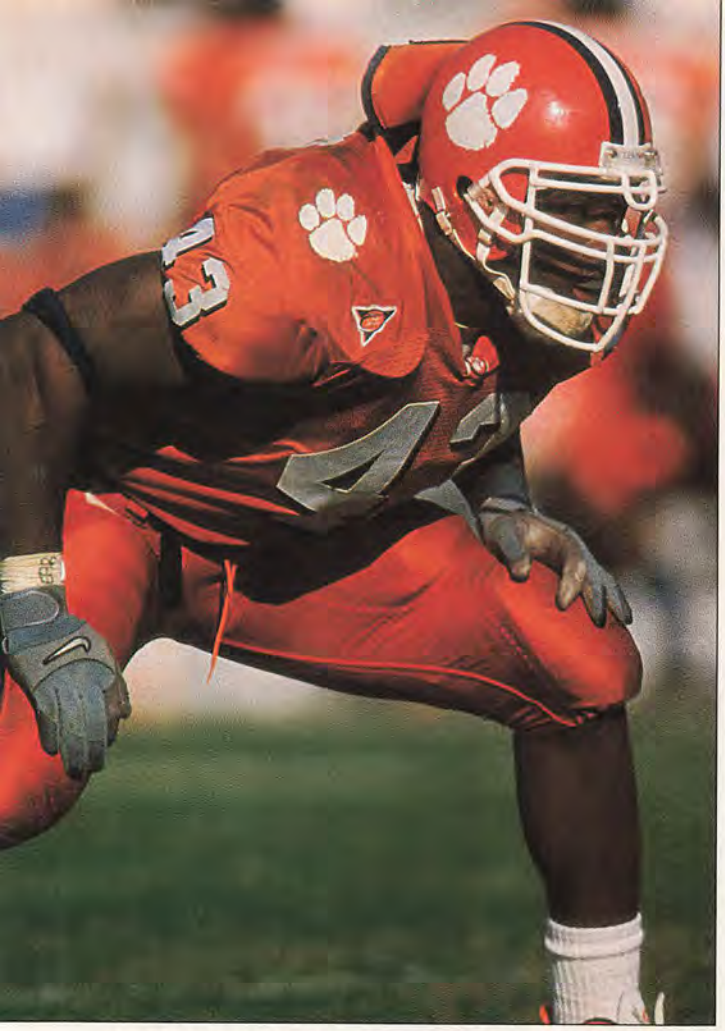
Interceptions: Carswell 6; Ardley 5; Polite 4.

QB Sacks: Adams 16; Williams 4; Holleman 4; Bush 4.

Tackles For Loss: Adams 33; Jolly 10; Williams 6; McNeal 6.

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2	The Citadel
Sept. 9	Missouri
Sept. 16	Wake Forest
Sept. 23	at Virginia
Sept. 30	at Duke
Oct. 7	N.C. State
Oct. 14	Maryland
Oct. 21	at North Carolina
Oct. 28	Georgia Tech
Nov. 4	at Florida State
Nov. 18	South Carolina



KEITH ADAMS LED THE NATION IN TACKLES WITH 186 AND WAS NAMED THE ACC'S DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR.

PHOTO BY CHRIS STANFORD/ALLSPORT

To whom Dantzler and Simmons will hand off remains somewhat of a mystery going into the season, although it's clear who the candidates are.

Travis Zachery had a stunning sophomore season, rushing for 820 yards and 16 touchdowns after doing little until then. But he's been pushed by 260-pound Terry Witherspoon for the starting job in the one-back set. Witherspoon must graduate by August to earn his fourth year of eligibility because he was ineligible as a freshman.

Smaller backs such as Zachery, Bernard Rambert and Chad Jasmin battled injuries throughout the spring, which opened the door for Witherspoon.

"Witherspoon might be the top back coming out of the spring," Bowden said. "It wasn't really good that those other guys were hurt. Instead of one of those other tailbacks creating separation, Witherspoon might be the guy who will start against The Citadel."

Last season he battled his weight and the adjustment to a new system, which left him as a non-factor, carrying the ball just 18 times. That seems to have changed.

"My main focus is getting ready for the season," Witherspoon said.

Clemson's offense showed the explosiveness it advertised, averaging 26.8 points and 402.6 yards in 12 games. One of the primary reasons for this was the record-setting season of receiver Rod Gardner, who had 80 receptions for 1,084 yards and four touchdowns. He became the first Tiger ever to top 1,000 yards receiving in the school's run-oriented history.

Gardner, a converted defensive back, is a big target at 6-4, 217 pounds and serves as a prototypical outside receiver in the four-wide alignment.

But as Clemson makes the multi-year transition from a run-oriented offense to this wide-open attack, it will need to upgrade the depth at receiver. Redshirt freshman Kevin Youngblood, another big target at 6-5, figures to play a role, as does sophomore Jackie Robinson. Matt Bailey offers a deep threat and Justin Watts is a dependable possession receiver.

Seventeen different receivers caught passes last season, exhibiting the need for a number of hands who can make plays. The receivers, possibly as much as any position, could be responsible for taking Clemson to that next level of eight or nine wins, perhaps more judging by expectations around Tiger Town.

"That's one of my big issues, right there, to take it to the next level," said Gardner, a senior. "When I leave, I want to be able to say that I helped bring the tradition back."

With added depth, the Tigers hope they can start to wear down opponents with their fast-break attack in the fourth quarter. It actually worked against them last season when their own players got weary. Opponents outscored Clemson, 80-74, in the fourth quarter.

As a means of accommodating this type of offense, Bowden wants fit, quick offensive linemen, not the burly 300-pound types who grow tired by game's end. The Tigers return all five starters on the offensive line, so they should know what's expected of them.

Left tackle Akil Smith and center Kyle Young are candidates for the All-ACC team. Left guard T.J. Watkins has added 15 pounds, bringing him up to 273, which is about where offensive line coach Ron West wants his players weight-wise. Right tackle John McDermott continues to be one of the steadiest players on the team.

"He had more snaps than any other lineman last year," West said of McDermott. "You learn a lot when you play a lot."

While Bowden is deeply involved with the offense, the team nearly took a blow below the belt when Texas Tech made a run at Rich Rodriguez, who came to Clemson from Tulane with Bowden. Rodriguez interviewed for the Red Raiders' head job, but withdrew from the opportunity, keeping the offensive staff intact as it enters the second year of rebuilding. He is one of three assistant coaches who received significant raises after other schools made job offers. The raises push Clemson's total salary for assistants over the $1 million mark.

Any conversation of the defense must begin with linebacker Keith Adams, who led the nation in tackles with 186 and was named the ACC's Defensive Player of the Year. He did it all, from stuffing the run to leading the team in sacks with 16.

But Bowden's concern is that Adams was forced to blitz too much because the guys up front weren't getting it done with the pass rush. He points primarily at the defensive ends, which accounted for just seven of the team's 47 sacks. Bryant McNeal, Nick Eason, Marcus Lewis and Terry Bryant have been challenged to increase their production.

Up front, Terry Jolly headlines a group long on potential, that dirty word that could hint at greatness for the coming season or doom them to underachievement. Clemson's scoring defense (21.5 points per game) ranked 33rd in the nation last season, but Bowden insists that they climb into the Top 10 this season.

"We can be an average defense," coordinator Reggie Herring said. "Are we going to step up to the next level and be accounted for? We've got to go out and play to be able to do that."

The defensive line could hold the key to Herring's question. Jolly, a second-team All-ACC tackle, will team with Jason Hollo-

CLEMSON

TIGERS SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Class	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown
43	Keith Adams	LB	Jr	5-11	220	College Park, GA
28	Alex Ardley	CB	Jr	5-10	170	Tallahasee, FL
80	Matt Bailey	WR	Jr	6-4	220	Stone Mountain, GA
74	Nick Black	OT	Fr	6-5	280	Maryville, TN
42	Altroy Bodrick	LB	Jr	6-0	215	Cameron
71	Derrick Brantley	OT	Jr	6-6	280	Mullins
93	Terry Bryant	DE	Sr	6-4	275	Savannah, GA
79	Gary Byrd	OG	So	6-4	290	Stone Mountain, GA
95	Jovon Bush	DT	Jr	6-5	300	Hardeeville
46	Chad Carson	LB	Jr	6-3	235	Newnan, GA
9	Robert Carswell	FS	Sr	6-0	215	Lithonia, GA
68	Jermyn Chester	OT	Fr	6-2	263	Titusville, FL
99	Gary Childress	DE	Sr	6-3	270	Nashville, TN
36	Vince Ciurciu	RB	Jr	6-0	245	Paramus, NJ
30	Darrel Crutchfield	CB	Sr	6-0	180	Jacksonville, FL
13	Pat Cyrgalis	TE	So	6-1	242	Kearny, NJ
1	Woodrow Dantzler	QB	Jr	5-11	200	Orangeburg
98	Nick Eason	DE	So	6-4	255	Lyons, GA
44	David Ellis	LB	So	6-1	221	Lamar
47	Rodney Feaster	LB	So	6-0	210	Chester
23	Rod Gardner	WR	Sr	6-4	215	Jacksonville, FL
75	Nathan Gillespie	OT	So	6-3	271	Dallas, NC
40	Charles Hafley	SS	Jr	6-1	195	Pompano Beach, FL
11	Charles Harper	FS	Fr	5-10	180	Quincy, FL
70	William Henry	DT	Fr	6-4	270	Greenville
76	Jason Holloman	DT	Sr	6-3	285	Decatur, GA
21	Marcus Houskin	FS	Fr	6-0	200	Douglasville, GA
58	J.J. Howard	DE	Fr	6-3	220	Huger
90	Freddie James	DT	Sr	6-0	265	Saint Stephens
10	Chad Jasmin	TB	Fr	5-10	220	Vacheria, LA
22	Marvis Jenkins	WR	So	5-9	180	Decatur, GA
27	Kevin Johnson	CB	Fr	6-0	185	Orangeburg
92	Terry Jolly	DT	Sr	6-2	290	Fort Valley, GA
30	Tony Lazzara	PK	So	5-9	185	Saint Petersburg, FL
89	Jason LeMay	TE	So	6-4	235	Black Mountain, NC
57	Marcus Lewis	DE	Fr	6-2	250	Lithonia, GA
64	Micha Lewis	OG	Jr	5-10	250	Inman
3	Brian Mance	CB	So	5-11	185	Alcolu
67	John McDermott	OT	Sr	6-6	285	Woodstock, GA
32	J.J. McKelvey	WR	So	6-4	215	Moncks Corner
91	Bryant McNeal	DE	So	6-5	235	Swansea
2	Eric Meekins	SS	So	6-2	190	Easley
50	Will Merritt	OG	Jr	6-3	260	Easley
60	Theo Mougros	OG	Jr	6-2	275	Tarpon Springs, FL
51	Brian Outlaw	C	Sr	6-2	245	Gaffney
63	Henry Owen	LS	Jr	5-11	225	Clover
62	Neely Page	OG	Jr	6-3	285	Aiken
97	DeJuan Polk	DT	Fr	6-2	265	Wadesboro, NC
20	Bernard Rambert	TB	So	6-0	200	Summerville
16	Joe Don Reames	WR	So	5-10	185	Seneca
53	Travis Roberts	LB	So	6-0	220	Folkston, GA
82	Jackie Robinson	WR	So	6-1	190	Orangeburg
49	Kenzi Ross	LB	Sr	6-2	220	Fort Valley, GA
96	Brandon Rouse	DT	So	6-3	275	Darlington
15	Matt Schell	QB	So	6-2	200	Covington, GA
85	Jeff Scott	WR	Fr	6-1	180	Seneca
81	Mike Seth	WR	Sr	6-0	180	Sumter
7	William Simmons	QB	Fr	6-0	190	Quincy, FL
61	Akil Smith	OG	Jr	6-4	280	Richmond, VA
24	Jamie Somaini	P/PK	Sr	6-1	230	Moore
31	Chad Speck	FS	Sr	6-0	215	Nashville, TN
41	Rodney Thomas	LB	So	6-0	225	Cadwell, GA
56	Khaleed Vaughn	DE	Fr	6-4	260	Atlanta, GA
78	Gregory Walker	OG	Fr	6-5	315	Sumter
77	Brady Washburn	OT	So	6-5	285	Seabrook, TX
73	T.J. Watkins	OT	Jr	6-3	275	North Augusta
6	Justin Watts	WR	Sr	6-0	202	Florence
64	Matt Watson	LS	So	5-11	225	Rock Hill
29	Tore' White	TB	Jr	5-9	190	Andrews
94	Paul White, Jr.	DT	Fr	6-2	270	Irmo
19	Waymon White	WR	Jr	6-2	215	Decatur, GA
48	Braxton K. Williams	LB	Jr	6-2	215	Greensboro, NC
26	Terry Witherspoon	FB	Sr	5-11	265	Monroe, NC
83	Morgan Woodward	TE	Jr	6-0	225	Florence
59	Kyle Young	C	Jr	6-3	270	Clemson
17	Kevin Youngblood	WR	Fr	6-4	195	Jacksonville, FL
8	Travis Zachery	TB	Jr	6-0	190	Marietta, GA

Roster and depth chart subject to change.

2000 PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Woody Dantzler, Jr*/Willie Simmons, Fr
FB	Terry Witherspoon, Sr/Vince Ciurciu, Jr
TB	Travis Zachery, Jr*/Bernard Rambert, So
WR	Rod Gardner, Sr*/Matt Bailey, Jr
WR	Justin Watts, Sr/Kevin Youngblood, Fr
TE	Jason LeMay, So/Morgan Woodward, Jr
LT	Akil Smith, Jr*/Brady Washburn, So
LG	T.J. Watkins, Jr*/Will Merritt, Jr
C	Kyle Young, Jr*/Jermyn Chester, Fr
RG	Theo Mougros, Sr*/Nick Black, Fr
RT	John McDermott, Sr*/Derrick Brantley, Jr
PK	Tony Lazzara, So*/ Aaron Hunt, Fr

DEFENSE	
DE	Nick Eason, So/Bryant McNeal, So
DT	Terry Jolly, Sr*/Gary Childress, Sr
DT	Jason Holloman, Sr*/Jovon Bush, Jr
DE	Terry Bryant, Sr*/Marcus Lewis, Fr
OLB	Braxton Williams, Jr*/Altroy Bodrick, Jr
MLB	Chad Carson, Jr*/Rodney Thomas, So
OLB	Keith Adams, Jr*/Kenzi Ross, Sr
CB	Alex Ardley, Jr*/Kevin Johnson, Fr
CB	Brian Mance, So/Darrel Crutchfield, Sr
SS	Charles Hafley, Jr/Eric Meekins, So
FS	Robert Carswell, Sr*/Marcus Houskin, Fr
P	Jamie Somaini, Sr/Doug Brunson, So

SPRING UPDATE

Clemson's spring game was played in front of 18,000 fans at Death Valley. While most of them came to watch first-team quarterback Woody Dantzler and second-teamer Willie Simmons battle it out, it was third-team quarterback Matt Schell, who has never thrown a pass in a college game, who stole the show.

Schell threw two of the three touchdowns in the team's final scrimmage of the spring and finished with 187 yards. Not bad for a quarterback who ran the Wing-T in high school, about as far from Clemson's spread offense as you can get.

"I had to learn from scratch how to read defenses, and I'm glad coaches stuck with me and kept giving me opportunities," Schell said. "I knew what I could do."

• Those at a Clemson practice in early April got a hoot out of coach Tommy Bowden's complaints about the practice fields, which were lacking in grass about three weeks into spring practice. Interesting, given that Clemson's strength as a university is its agricultural department.

"There's some work that needs to be done on those fields," Bowden said. "This is a problem you shouldn't have. This is a school where you shouldn't have grass problems."

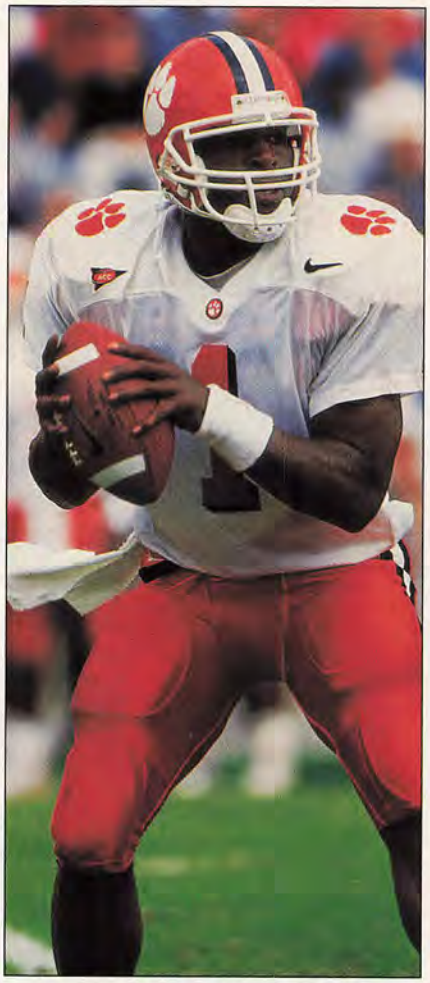
• Clemson's Memorial Stadium underwent $1.6 million in improvements in the east end zone, the same end where the players touch Howard's rock before running down the hill. The video board also has been enhanced to provide a sharper image.

• The Tigers will likely be minus a couple of players entering fall practice. Wide receiver Waymon White and tight end Pat Cyrgalis were suspended from the team in separate incidents.

Cyrgalis, a sophomore penciled in as a starter, was suspended about midway through spring drills for unspecified violation of team rules. He was not with the team through the offseason and his status for the coming season is uncertain.

White was a junior reserve who was kicked off the team for good. The player said it was an accumulation of several things, from missing curfew prior to last season's South Carolina game to skipping classes.

— Michael Smith



WOODY DANTZLER IS BATTLING WILIE SIMMONS, A REDSHIRT FRESHMAN, FOR THE STARTING JOB.

PHOTO BY JEFF FISHBEIN

CLEMSON

Dantzler's No. 1, But He Knows Simmons is Lurking

As long as Willie Simmons plays quarterback at Clemson, Woody Dantzler will be looking over his shoulder. Perhaps that's the motivation Dantzler thrives on.

Simmons came to Clemson as a glamour recruit who everybody wanted. He would surely lead the Tigers back to football glory. That, too, is Dantzler's objective.

Now a junior, Dantzler is battling Simmons, a redshirt freshman, for the starting job. Dantzler emerged from the spring as No. 1, but competition is sure to continue into fall camp and in all likelihood, throughout the season.

It seems that no matter how well Dantzler plays, no matter how his numbers sparkle, people continue to bring up Simmons' name. Dantzler threw just one interception in three spring scrimmages, accounting for 91 attempts. His lone interception bounced off a wide receiver's hands.

After one particularly impressive scrimmage in which Dantzler threw four touchdown passes, Simmons said, "If he keeps having days like this, it's going to be pretty hard to catch up with him."

In the spring game, Dantzler was 22 of 34 for 237 yards.

"Woody looks more comfortable with the offense," coach Tommy Bowden said. "And it looks like he's fighting hard to keep the job. We've got Willie Simmons who doesn't want to be No. 2 and we've got Woody who is not going to give up being No. 1 … You've got a No. 1 guy with a talented guy behind him. That's good."

Dantzler insists that having to prove himself over and over doesn't bother him. If anything, it's spurred him on to improve his play from last season when he threw nine touchdowns against five interceptions and completed 55.7 percent of his throws.

"I've got a little bit more confidence, a better understanding of the offense now," Dantzler said.

His 2,094 yards of total offense, 30th in the nation, would serve as quite a season for most players. It was especially impressive because Dantzler played just 10 games — starting five — while sharing the position with the graduated Brandon Streeter. Dantzler's 588 rushing yards were the most by a Clemson quarterback in 21 years.

But the questions remain and the references to Simmons continue. ❑

man to hold down the middle. Eason and Bryant, a two-year starter, will likely start at ends, forming the front four.

At linebacker, Adams is joined by Braxton K. Williams and Chad Carson, forming one of the top units in the country. Adams plays on the weak side, Carson in the middle and Williams on the strong side. But don't forget about Altroy Bodrick, who had a sterling spring and challenged Williams for the starting job. Bodrick started four games last season and registered 11 tackles in a win against Maryland.

In the secondary, senior free safety Robert Carswell is back after setting a school record for tackles by a defensive back (126). He also finished 10th in the nation with six interceptions.

Alex Ardley, who claimed five interceptions, will man one cornerback, while sophomore Brian Mance, a newcomer to the starting crew, will hold down the other cornerback spot. Ardley will take the opponent's best receiver man-to-man. Mance, who was in on just 49 plays last season as a true freshman, will also find himself in one-on-one situations, but at least he comes into a situation where the defense returns eight starters.

"EVERYBODY MAY BE THINKING ABOUT NINE OR 10 WINS, BUT WAIT A MINUTE. WE'VE GOT TO LOOK AT THIS THING REALISTICALLY."

"I've got 16 starters coming back from a six-win season," Bowden said. "So what does that mean? That I've got a chance to win six again? Or is that depth good enough, with injuries, to put us 9-0 going into Florida State? I don't think so, yet. Two years ago, this team won two I-A games."

True enough, but that won't stop the Clemson fans from dreaming of days gone by, when games against much of the ACC were just tune-ups for the big ones. And Florida State now rests firmly as "The Big One." Even the Seminoles recognized that fact when they made the Clemson game one of the premium-priced tickets in their season ticket package.

"Everybody may be thinking about nine or 10 wins, but wait a minute," Bowden said. "We've got to look at this thing realistically."

— Michael Smith

Riddell
14
14

DUKE BLUE DEVILS

Carl Franks' debut as Duke's head football coach began with a delay of game penalty before his offense could run its first play at East Carolina. The season ended with a scoreless performance against a 3-8 North Carolina team.

But in between that embarrassing start and that horrific finish, the Blue Devils provided a glimpse — just a glimpse — at the imaginative, wide-open passing game that Franks hopes will restore Duke football to its former glory.

Devils Hope to Rediscover High-Powered Offense

"We're in the process of building our program and it's going to take time," Franks said. "I think we've got a foundation we can build on."

Franks, who serves as his own offensive coordinator, is trying to install the same offense that Steve Spurrier developed as Duke's offensive coordinator in the early '80s, then used later in the decade to spark the Blue Devils to back-to-back 7-3-1 and 8-4 seasons. The latter produced a share of the 1989 ACC title — Duke's lone claim to a conference championship in the last 35 years.

"It's the offense that I know the best," Franks said. "It's the one I better get going or I'm in trouble."

Franks played tight end under Spurrier at Duke in the early 1980s and in the USFL, then joined his former coach as an assistant when Spurrier returned to Duke as head coach in 1987. He spent the next 12 years at Spurrier's side, following him to Florida and learning every detail of the "Fun and Gun" offense that Spurrier used to give the Gators their first national championship.

Duke would settle for a few winning seasons or an occasional bowl trip. But neither is likely this season as Franks tries to rebuild his defense after losing eight starters to graduation and find the young offensive players who can turn last year's passing promise into a season-long aerial explosion.

"The quarterbacks obviously have some carryover from last year," Franks said, pointing to veterans Spencer Romine and Bobby Campbell. "It helps a great deal in knowing how to get into and out of plays."

Franks' appreciation for his veteran quarterbacks is understandable. If Duke is going to be competitive in 2000, the offense will have to click right away. The Blue Devils can't afford the same kind of growing pains that cost the team early last season.

"The offense didn't start playing well until the fourth or fifth game," Franks said. "I don't think the offense is that complicated, but it did take a bit of time for everybody to operate as one unit offensively."

It actually took four and a half games — four early season losses and a scoreless first half at Virginia.

But when the Blue Devils came out for the second half against the Cavaliers, it suddenly looked like a different team. In fact, it looked very much like one of Spurrier's teams at Florida.

Romine threw with precision, consistently finding wide receivers Scottie Montgomery and Richmond Flowers for big gains. When Virginia started reeling from the passing game, running backs Letavious Wilks and Duane Epperson socked the Cavs on the ground.

Romine threw for over 200 yards after halftime as Duke stunned bowl-bound Virginia 24-17 in overtime. The junior quarterback was on target again a week later, throwing for 294 yards and running for three touchdowns in a 38-31 loss to Georgia Tech. He added 265 passing yards in an overtime loss to N.C. State, then threw for a career high 404 yards in a 25-22 comeback victory at Maryland that knocked the Terps out of a bowl game.

Romine was hurt a week later at Clemson and the Duke offense never regained its momentum, but that four-game stretch — really a three and a half game stretch — provided a glimpse of how Franks' offense is supposed to work. During that run, Romine averaged 302 yards a game passing and Duke played four of the ACC's

SPENCER ROMINE THREW FOR OVER 200 YARDS AFTER HALFTIME AS DUKE STUNNED BOWL-BOUND VIRGINIA 24-17 IN OVERTIME.

PHOTO BY STEVE BEYER

at a glance

BLUE DEVILS

1999: 3-8 Overall; 3-5 ACC (6th)

COACH: Carl Franks — At Duke: 3-8, 1 year; Overall: 3-8, 1 year

RETURNING STARTERS: 11; 7 Offense, 3 Defense, Punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH: TE Benjamin Watson; C Troy Andrew; LB Nate Krill

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: A strong trio of talented tight ends, a deep offensive line and two veteran quarterbacks provide a solid offensive foundation — provided several talented young running backs develop and Carl Franks can find some capable wide receivers.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: The defense is small, inexperienced and not particularly fast. And if Franks doesn't come up with a game-breaking receiver, his passing game won't get off the ground.

OVERVIEW: Transition problems prevented Franks from winning with the veteran team he inherited from former coach Fred Goldsmith. Now he's got to rebuild with a much younger team. Duke doesn't reload in football the way the Devils do in basketball. It's going to take time to construct a competitive ACC team — especially on defense.

BLUE DEVILS RECRUITING

Name / Position	Size	Hometown	High School / College
BATTIER, Jeremy WR	6-4, 187	Birmingham, MI	Detroit Country Day School
SuperPrep All-American ◆ Rated No. 34 wide receiver nationally by *Rivals100.com* ◆ All-State ◆ As a senior, had 53 receptions for 846 yards and six touchdowns ◆ Had 156 yards rushing and scored two touchdowns.			
BONIEWICZ, Joe DL	6-4, 245	Dunmore, PA	Dunmore
Gridiron All-Star ◆ All-League ◆ Two-year starter ◆ As a senior, had 10 receptions at tight end ◆ Four-year basketball letterman ◆ Honor roll.			
BROADNAX, Cory OLB	6-3, 250	Raleigh	Ravenscroft
Ranked No. 23 prospect in North Carolina by *SuperPrep* ◆ All-State ◆ Played defensive end and tight end ◆ As a senior, had 57 tackles, six quarterback sacks, five passes broken up and three fumbles recovered ◆ Made seven receptions for 73 yards ◆ Four-year letterman in football ◆ Three-year basketball letterman.			
CAPE, J.T. OLB	6-4, 199	Watkinsville, GA	Oconee County
SuperPrep rated No. 46 prospect in Georgia ◆ All-State ◆ Three-year starter ◆ Had 106 tackles, including 67 solo, six quarterback sacks and seven tackles for loss as a senior ◆ Had eight receptions for 123 yards.			
CARTER, Seth FB	6-0, 223	Oklahoma City, OK	Heritage Hall
Rivals100.com ranked No. 2 tight end in Oklahoma and No. 47 tight end nationally ◆ All-District ◆ Three-year starter ◆ As a senior, had 216 yards rushing on 34 attempts and two touchdowns ◆ Had six receptions for 88 yards ◆ Made 13 solo tackles, 48 assists and 21 quarterback sacks ◆ Team captain ◆ Long snapper.			
CIEPCIELINSKI, Drew DE	6-4, 221	Charlotte	Providence Senior
All-Southwest Conference as a tight end ◆ Second-team All-County on defense ◆ Two-year two-way starter ◆ As a senior, had 12 quarterback sacks and 14 tackles for loss ◆ Had eight receptions for 209 yards and two touchdowns ◆ Team captain ◆ Four-year letterman in football and track ◆ National Honor Society.			
FOWLER, Ryan OLB	6-3, 223	Redington Shores, FL	Seminole
All-District ◆ All-Conference ◆ All-County ◆ Played quarterback, running back and linebacker ◆ Two-time team captain ◆ Three-year letterman ◆ Defending state discus champion.			
LANDRUM, Senterrio ATH	5-9, 170	Sweetwater, AL	Sweetwater
Mobile Register rated No. 5 prospect in southwest Alabama ◆ Three-time All-State ◆ Four-year starter at running back ◆ Had 1,643 yards rushing on 188 attempts with 26 touchdowns as a senior ◆ Had seven receptions for 150 yards and two touchdowns ◆ Had 63 tackles and six interceptions.			
LOVE, Reggie WR	6-4, 225	Charlotte	Providence Day School
SuperPrep All-American, ranked No. 4 prospect in state ◆ Rated No. 5 prospect in state by *Charlotte Observer* ◆ *Rivals100.com* ranked No. 10 tight end nationally ◆ All-State ◆ Made 36 receptions for 700 yards and seven touchdowns as a senior ◆ Had 45 solo tackles, 20 assists and four quarterback sacks.			
McDONALD, Trey P	6-1, 200	Oak Ridge, TN	Oak Ridge
Honorable mention All-State ◆ All-Region ◆ All-East Tennessee ◆ As a senior, averaged 41 yards per punt ◆ Career average of 39.7 yards per punt ◆ Made 11 of 13 career extra point attempts.			
MITCHELL, Christian OL	6-6, 300	Amherst, NY	Sweet Home
SuperPrep ranked No. 6 prospect in New York ◆ All-Western New York ◆ Sectional Co-Offensive Lineman of the Year ◆ Two-way starter ◆ Team captain ◆ Competed in shotput on track team, finishing third in New York.			
MOONEY, Dan OL	6-5, 266	Bay Village, OH	Saint Ignatius
PrepStar All-American ◆ Rated No. 39 prospect in Midwest Region by *SuperPrep* ◆ *Rivals100.com* ranked No. 57 offensive lineman nationally ◆ CBS Sportsline All-American ◆ All-State ◆ All-District ◆ All-County ◆ Helped team to 13-2 season and state championship as a senior ◆ Team captain ◆ Four-year track letterman.			

Name / Position	Size	Hometown	High School / College
MULLINS, Johnnie DB	6-0, 195	Pahokee, FL	Glades Central
Ranked No. 74 prospect in Florida by *SuperPrep* ◆ All-State ◆ All-Conference ◆ All-District ◆ Helped team to 15-0 season as a senior ◆ Helped team to consecutive state championships ◆ Team captain.			
NOVAK, Zach FB	6-2, 225	Wyoming, OH	Wyoming
All-League on offense and defense ◆ All-City for Cincinnati area as tight end ◆ As a senior, had six receptions for 147 yards and one touchdown ◆ Team's leading tackler ◆ Long snapper ◆ Team captain.			
POWELL, Calen DE	6-5, 230	Bellevue, WA	Lake Washington
SuperPrep ranked No. 30 prospect in Northwest Region ◆ All-State ◆ All-District ◆ Second-team All-League as tight end and defensive end ◆ Made 26 receptions for 400 yards and four touchdowns as a senior ◆ Had four quarterback sacks, including one for a safety ◆ Started for basketball team ◆ All-State in track.			
PUGSLEY, Paul ILB	6-3, 211	Austin, TX	Lake Travis
Rated No. 32 tight end prospect nationally by *Rivals100.com* ◆ All-District defensive back ◆ Second-team All-District offensive back ◆ As a senior, had 71 tackles, two fumbles caused and two interceptions ◆ Had 380 yards rushing on 46 carries with three touchdowns ◆ Had 14 receptions for 101 yards and one touchdown.			
RICE, Chad ILB	6-3, 205	Asheville	A.C. Reynolds
SuperPrep rated No. 29 prospect in state ◆ All-Conference kicker/defensive end as a junior ◆ As a senior, had 126 tackles, including 10 tackles for loss, eight fumbles recovered and two blocked kicks ◆ As a placekicker, scored 65 points, including seven of 10 field goal attempts ◆ Made 44 of 50 extra point attempts.			
SCOTT, Darryl QB	6-3, 205	Voorhees, NJ	Eastern
All-South Jersey ◆ All-Conference ◆ Two-year starter ◆ As a senior, threw for 919 yards and eight touchdowns ◆ Had 673 yards rushing and eight touchdowns ◆ Team captain ◆ Three-year letterman in football.			
SHARPE, Khary WR	5-10, 165	Voorhees, NJ	Eastern
Two-time All-Conference ◆ Played in North-South Jersey All-Star game ◆ Made 10 receptions for 426 yards and five touchdowns as a senior ◆ Had 71-yard punt return for touchdown ◆ Lettered in track.			
SMITH, Adam QB	6-5, 180	Orinda, CA	Miramonte
San Francisco Examiner rated No. 1 quarterback in Bay Area ◆ Ranked No. 7 quarterback in California by *Cal Hi Sports* ◆ All-Northern California ◆ Rated No. 7 in California in passing ◆ Let team to league championship ◆ As a senior, completed 148 of 282 passes for 2,687 yards and 28 touchdowns ◆ Team captain.			
SMITH, Terrell DB	5-11, 170	Wingate	Forest Hills
Conference Player of the Year ◆ County Player of the Year ◆ Played defensive back, running back, quarterback and kick returner ◆ Had 1,418 yards rushing and 19 touchdowns as a senior ◆ Had 500 yards passing and seven touchdowns ◆ Returned one kick for a touchdown ◆ Team captain ◆ Runs 40-yard dash in 4.5 seconds.			
STANFORD, Kenneth DB	5-9, 170	Detroit, MI	Renaissance
Detroit Free-Press second-team All-Detroit ◆ Second-team All-State ◆ As a senior quarterback, completed 114 of 175 passes for 1,875 yards and two touchdowns ◆ Had 498 yards rushing and seven touchdowns.			
WISPELWEY, Chris QB	6-5, 200	Pompton Plains, NJ	Pequannuck Township
SuperPrep ranked No. 29 prospect in New Jersey ◆ Second-team All-State ◆ *Newark Star-Ledger* third-team All-State ◆ Led team to 12-0 record and school's first state title ◆ Completed 60 of 114 passes for 1,133 yards and 25 touchdowns with four interceptions ◆ Threw a school record 51 career touchdown passes.			
WORSHAM, Patrick OL	6-5, 287	Daytona Beach, FL	Mainland
Rated No. 100 player in Florida by *Rivals100.com* ◆ All-State ◆ *Orlando Sentinel* All-Central Florida ◆ All-District ◆ Three-year starter.			

A LOOK AT THE BLUE DEVILS

RESULTS

(3-8, 3-5)

9	East Carolina	27
12	Northwestern (OT)	15
14	Vanderbilt	31
23	Florida State	51
24	at Virginia (2OT)	17
31	Georgia Tech	38
24	N.C. State (OT)	31
25	Maryland	22
7	Clemson	58
48	Wake Forest	35
0	North Carolina	38

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING

Name	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int
Romine	243	123	1638	50.6	6	13
Campbell	96	37	526	38.5	1	6

RUSHING

Name	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD
Wilks	95	334	3.5	48	3
Epperson	107	324	3.0	15	2
Hill	66	237	3.6	32	2
Pierce	6	38	6.3	23	0

RECEIVING

Name	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD
Montgomery	51	819	16.1	50	5
Flowers	42	649	15.5	69	5
Erdeljac	19	268	14.1	36	0
Dupree	18	236	13.1	35	0

DEFENSIVE LEADERS

Tackles: Stallmeyer 110; DeLamielleure 103; Clark 88.

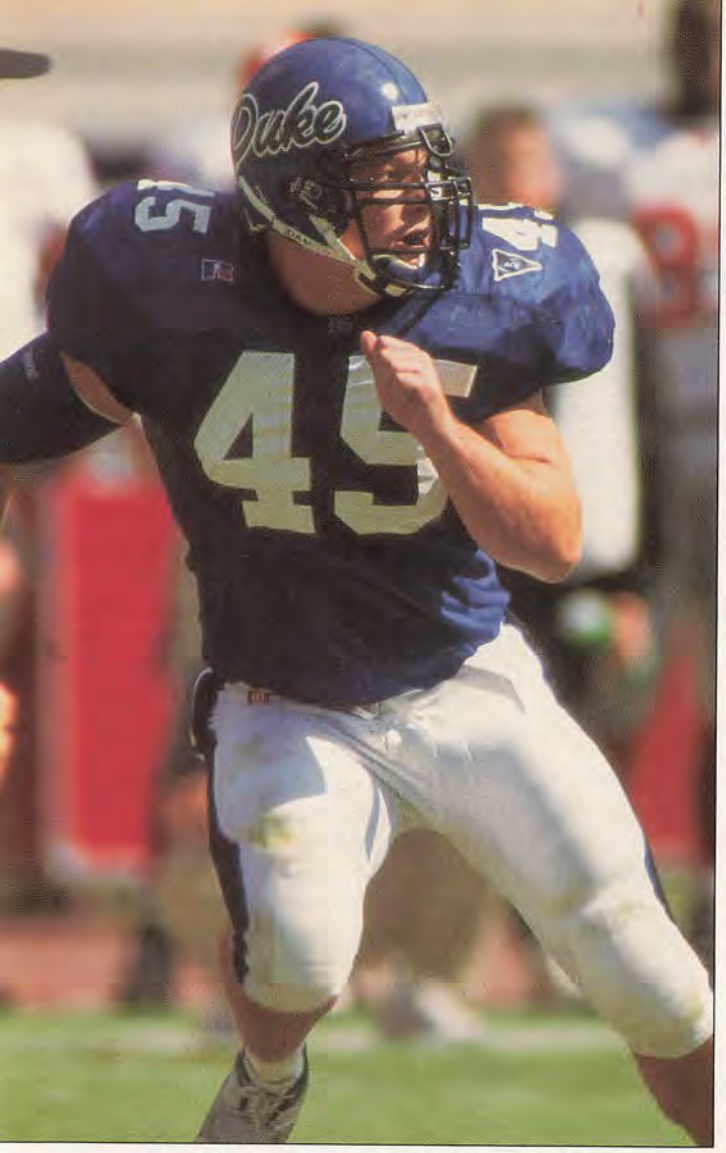
Interceptions: Clark 5; Grant 4; Jones 3; Stallmeyer 2.

QB Sacks: Knight 4; McCormack 3; Stallmeyer 2; Combs 2.

Tackles For Loss: Combs 13; Lewis 9; DeLamielleure 9.

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2	East Carolina
Sept. 9	at Northwestern
Sept. 16	Virginia
Sept. 23	at Vanderbilt
Sept. 30	Clemson
Oct. 14	at Florida State
Oct. 21	at Georgia Tech
Oct. 28	Maryland
Nov. 4	at Wake Forest
Nov. 11	at N.C. State
Nov. 18	North Carolina



TODD DELAMIELLEURE, THE SON OF FORMER NFL STAR JOE DELAMIELLEURE, RETURNS IN THE MIDDLE.

PHOTO BY STEVE BEYER

better teams on even terms.

Romine, a soft-spoken pre-med student from Cullman, Ala., returns for his senior season after undergoing offseason shoulder surgery. If he can stay healthy, Franks will have a poised, proven leader to run his offense. Campbell, a tall, strong-armed senior with 12 games starting experience in his pocket, backs up Romine.

But it's also important that Franks develops a quarterback who can step into the starting role next season, so that Duke won't have to endure another painful adjustment period on offense.

The best candidate to become Duke's quarterback of the future is D. Bryant, a former prep All-American from Cass Tech in Detroit, who is back on campus after missing last season with academic problems.

"I was working for GM on an assembly line," Bryant said. "Doing that hard work every day, that was not something I wanted to do. That really made me realize what I had here. I couldn't wait to get back to school."

Bryant, an agile athlete recruited to play wide receiver by several Big Ten powers, showed off his passing skills in last spring's Blue-White scrimmage, hitting 15 of 24 passes for 214 yards to lead his team to a two-touchdown victory.

"He's made tremendous progress," Franks said. "He throws a beautiful ball. He gets rid of it quickly — probably as quick as any of our guys. He's come a long way, but he's still got a long way to go."

The future of Duke's offense is going to depend on the progress of players such as Bryant and redshirt freshmen tailbacks Chris Douglas and Alexander Wade and untested linemen like 310-pound guard Daryl Lewis and 6-7, 275-pound tackle Drew Strojny. They may be backups this season, but they will be called on to play larger roles in the next few years.

Franks has a veteran offensive nucleus to build on — with one glaring exception. His wide receiver corps was decimated in the offseason by graduation, transfer and injury.

Scottie Montgomery, who caught 51 passes for 819 yards last season, graduated. Richmond Flowers, who caught 42 for 649 yards, stunned the Blue Devil staff when he announced he was transferring to Tennessee-Chattanooga for his senior season. Kyle Shanahan, the son of Denver Bronco coach Mike Shanahan who redshirted last season with an injury, also transferred, leaving to walk on at Texas.

That leaves Ben Erdeljac, who caught 19 passes for 268 yards in nine games, as Duke's top returning wide receiver. But he's coming off a serious knee injury and wasn't able to participate in spring football. And even at his best, Erderljac is more of a possession receiver than a game-breaker.

Franks must find a pass catcher to stretch defenses the way Montgomery and Flowers did. He's got a promising candidate in junior Kyle Moore, but in two seasons the former prep quarterback hasn't made much of an impact, catching just 17 passes for 150 yards. But at least one Duke player — senior backup quarterback Bobby Campbell — believes Moore is ready for a breakout season.

"Kyle Moore has gotten so much better," Campbell said. "He's at a spot where Scottie Montgomery was. He's a really smart receiver. He's going to have a great season."

If he doesn't, Franks may have to call on some true freshmen to fill the void.

His two top-rated recruits were wide receivers Reggie Love (6-5, 220) of Charlotte, N.C., and 6-4, 197-pound Jeremy Battier of Birmingham, Mich. — the younger brother of Duke basketball star Shane Battier. In addition to that pair of big receivers, Franks brought in two speedsters in Florida sprint champion Johnnie Mullins (who could end up in the secondary) and New Jersey's speedster Khary Sharpe.

If Erdeljac, Moore and one or two of the newcomers emerge as effective wide receivers, then Franks has a chance to construct an effective offense in 2000. His starting offensive line, anchored by pro prospect Troy Andrew at center and towering tackle Wes White, is deep and experienced. His running backs, led by veterans Epperson and Devin Pierce and pushed by talented newcomers Douglas and Wade, are solid, even if there's not a game-breaker in the group.

Even more promising is the trio of tight ends, led by 6-3, 250-pound sophomore Benjamin Watson, who is perhaps the best athlete on the team. But as good as Watson could be, 6-6 junior Mike Hart and redshirt freshman Nick Brzezinski are good enough that Franks has experimented with a variety of sets to take advantage of the wealth of talent at the position.

"Tight end is one of our deepest positions," Franks acknowledged. "That's why we've been doing some experimenting with using those guys at different positions, using them in the backfield, motioning them. They give us the ability to get three pretty good athletes on the field."

The offense needs all the athletes it can get, because the defense is likely to have growing pains.

DUKE

BLUE DEVILS SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Class	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown
46	Ed Abrao-Netto	CB	So	5-11	192	Rockville, MD
60	Mike Alberto	OT	Sr	6-3	280	Hickory
18	Bryan Ament	WR	Jr	6-5	215	Berwick, PA
51	Randy Ament	OLB	Jr	6-1	225	King of Prussia, PA
71	Troy Andrew	C	Sr	6-5	290	Klein, TX
90	Troy Austin	DT	Sr	6-2	275	Orange, NJ
70	Luke Bayer	OT	Fr	6-5	275	Gainsville, FL
80	Nick Brzezinski	TE	Fr	6-4	250	Ivonia, MI
6	D. Bryant	QB	So	6-3	190	Detroit, MI
15	Bobby Campbell	QB	Sr	6-5	215	Hicksville, NY
86	D.R. Cash	WR	Jr	6-1	185	Liberty
5	Brian Clemmons	TB	Fr	5-9	185	Cherryville
64	Michael Connolly	OG	So	6-8	310	Norwood, MA
49	Jason Davis	ILB	So	6-3	220	Gainsville, FL
45	Todd DeLamielleure	ILB	Jr	6-0	225	Durham
43	Kyle Denham	OLB	Jr	6-1	180	Detroit, MI
4	Chris Douglas	TB	Fr	5-10	170	Sherrills Ford
72	Greg Dufala	OG	So	6-3	275	Erie, PA
33	Duane Epperson	TB	Sr	5-9	190	Falls Church, VA
9	Ben Erdeljac	WR	So	6-0	195	Oakmont, PA
62	Russ Fenton	OL	Fr	6-4	275	West Seneca, NY
63	Robert Fleming	OG	Sr	6-3	270	Panama City, FL
39	Heath Freeman	PK	So	5-9	170	Short Hills, NJ
1	Brent Garber	PK	Fr	6-1	180	Thomasville, GA
20	Temo George	CB	Fr	5-9	165	Havelock, NC
23	Aaron Glaspie	WR	Fr	6-4	205	Southfield, MI
95	Tyran Grissom	DT	Jr	6-4	260	Detroit, MI
11	Ronnie Hamilton	CB	Jr	5-8	175	Oxford
16	Fred Harris	FS	Jr	5-11	200	Pine Springs, MN
81	Mike Hart	TE	Jr	6-6	240	Sayville, NY
19	Nick Hartofilis	WR	Sr	6-2	220	Huntington, NY
32	B.J. Hill	TB	Jr	5-11	200	Detroit, MI
26	Quentin Holley	CB	Jr	5-11	185	The Woodlands, TX
41	Levar Johnson	ILB	Jr	5-11	230	Martinez, GA
96	Shawn Johnson	DT	Fr	6-5	235	Fairport, NY
58	Kendral Knight	OLB	Sr	6-4	230	Wilson
34	Josh Kreider	FS	So	6-1	200	Massillon, OH
83	Nate Krill	OLB	Sr	6-8	260	McLean, VA
91	Thomas Larkin	DT	So	6-3	204	Los Angeles, CA
69	Robb Leandro	OG	Sr	6-0	255	Raeford
31	Derrick Lee	CB	So	5-11	190	Northport, AL
74	Daryl Lewis	OG	Fr	6-3	310	Tuscaloosa, AL
66	Jeff Lonergan	C	So	6-2	260	Alexandria, VA
79	Shawn Lynch	C	Jr	6-4	280	W. Palm Beach, FL
48	P.J. Marinelli	ILB	So	6-1	195	Naples, FL
73	Drew Martin	OT	So	6-4	280	Spartanburg, SC
77	John Miller	OG	Jr	6-6	310	Bassett, VA
50	Kurt Miller	ILB	Fr	6-0	230	West Seneca, NY
85	Kyle Moore	WR	Jr	5-11	185	Detroit, MI
17	Brian Morton	P	Sr	6-6	220	Huntington, NY
28	D'Juan O'Donald	CB	Fr	5-11	180	Detroit, MI
29	Jeff Phillips	WR	So	6-3	180	Southfield, MI
30	Devin Pierce	FB	Sr	5-10	225	Boca Raton, FL
52	Charles Porter	DT	Jr	6-4	240	Columbia, MD
57	Drew Presler	OL	So	6-5	260	Winston-Salem
42	Anthony Roberts	FS	Fr	6-3	185	Henrico
14	Spencer Romine	QB	Sr	6-3	205	Cullman, AL
54	Akil Ross	ILB	So	6-1	215	Washington, DC
8	Brad Santanna	SS	So	6-2	220	Harrisburg, PA
87	Ryan Shannon	WR	Sr	6-2	210	Agoura Hills, CA
24	Jamyon Small	OLB	Fr	6-1	210	Pontiac, MI
97	Eric Starns	DT	So	6-8	230	Sherrills Ford
75	Drew Strojny	OT	Fr	6-7	280	Wrentham, MA
37	Alexander Wade	FB	Fr	6-0	235	Newton, PA
84	Benjamin Watson	TE	So	6-3	250	Rock Hill, SC
76	Wes White	OT	Sr	6-7	280	Gilbert, WV
55	Nick Wilkerson	NG	Jr	6-3	300	Franklin, GA
68	Rusty Wilson	OL	Fr	6-3	290	Britton, MI
35	Matt Zielinski	OLB	Fr	6-2	235	East Amherst, NY

Roster and depth chart are subject to change.

2000 PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Spencer Romine, Sr*/Bobby Campbell, Sr
RB	Duane Epperson, Sr*/Alexander Wade, Fr
RB	Devin Pierce, Sr*/Chris Douglas, Fr
WR	Kyle Moore, Jr/Nick Hartofilis, Sr
WR	Ben Erdeljac, Jr/Bryan Ament, Jr
TE	Benjamin Watson, So/Mike Hart, Jr
LT	Wes White, Sr*/Drew Strojny, Fr
LG	Greg Dufala, So/Daryl Lewis, Fr
C	Troy Andrew, Sr*/Shawn Lynch, Jr*
RG	John Miller, Jr*/Rusty Wilson, Fr
RT	Mike Alberto, Sr/Luke Bayer, Fr
PK	Brent Garber, Fr

DEFENSE	
DT	Troy Austin, Sr/Tyran Grissom, Jr
NG	Nick Wilkerson, Jr/Russ Fenton, Fr
DT	Charles Porter, Jr/Shawn Johnson, Fr
OLB	Kendral Knight, Sr*/Matt Zielinski, Fr
ILB	Todd DeLamielleure, Jr*/Randy Ament, Sr
ILB	Levar Johnson, Jr/Jason Davis, So
OLB	Nate Krill, Sr/Akil Ross, So
CB	Quentin Holley, Jr/Derrick Lee, So
CB	Ronnie Hamilton, Jr*/Temo George, Fr
FS	Josh Kreider, So/Anthony Roberts, Fr
SS	Fred Harris, Jr/Brad Santanna, Jr
P	Brian Morton, Sr*

SPRING UPDATE

Carl Franks had to go through spring practice without many of the players who will play major roles for Duke this fall.

But the second-year coach refused to complain about the absence of so many vital cogs on his team.

"It gives the young players a good chance to learn how to play," Franks said. "That's one of the main things that spring is for — for the young guys to come out and compete. We redshirted a lot of guys last year and now it's time for them to see where they're going to fall into line.

Among the youngsters who appeared to thrust themselves into contention for major playing time were:

• Running backs Alexander Wade (6-0, 245) and Chris Douglas (5-10, 170).

"Both of those guys have the potential to be great," quarterback D. Bryant said. "Chris is small, more of a scatback with lots of speed. Alex is more of a power back and he has pretty good speed for his size."

• Linebackers Kurt Miller (6-0, 230) and Kyle Denham (6-1, 180).

Miller, a redshirt freshman, has size, toughness and an instinct for the ball. Denham, a walkon from Detroit, has good quickness.

• Safety Anthony Roberts (6-3, 185), a redshirt freshman with excellent mobility.

• Offensive lineman Daryl Lewis (6-3, 310) and Drew Strojny (6-7, 280), a pair of redshirt freshmen with better size than Duke is used to and more mobility than most smaller linemen.

• Redshirt freshman Brent Garber, slated to replace Sims Lenhardt as Duke's placekicker, showed off a strong leg.

Franks didn't move many players in the spring. The major switch was shifting veteran offensive tackle Wes White from the right side to the left, where he'll watch the blind side of Duke's quarterbacks.

There could be more moves in the fall when Franks welcomes back QB Spencer Romine, WR Ben Erdeljac, LB Nate Krill and TB B.J. Hill — all of whom missed the spring. The prognosis is that all would return at full speed.

That's important — because if spring is the time to look at the youngsters, fall is when having veterans really matters.

DUKE

Versatile Hill Can Go On Either Side Of Football

B.J. Hill doesn't know where he'll be playing this fall. That's a strange situation for such an important player, but the uncertainty merely reflects Hill's versatility as an athlete.

"B.J. is the sort of guy you dream about having," Duke coach Carl Franks said. "He's willing to play anywhere to help the team — and he'll play it very well."

Hill was a very good tailback as a freshman in 1998. That was a surprise, since he was recruited as a strong safety and started at that position.

But a string of injuries to Duke's veteran tailbacks forced former coach Fred Goldsmith to switch him to running back a week before the 1998 season opener. Hill rushed for 121 yards in his first collegiate game. He ended the season with 798 yards, the most by any freshman in school history.

Yet, Hill still hungered to play defense.

"I love defense," he said. "I'd rather hit than be hit. But whatever the team needs, that's what I'll do."

Hill's attitude may reflect his background. His father is the coach at Renaissance High School in Detroit, moving up to the head job a year after Hill went to Duke.

The 5-11, 200-pound junior stayed at tailback last season as a sophomore, rushing for 237 yards in eight games, despite a succession of minor injuries. His season ended early when he tore the ACL in his left knee at Maryland.

The injury forced Hill to sit out spring practice and gave Franks a chance to ponder a possible switch to safety.

"We'll wait and see how his knee is feeling," Franks said. "He should come back at full speed. He can certainly help us at running back and he can help us in the secondary."

At least one Duke assistant suggested that Hill would be a safety in the mold of former San Francisco all-pro Ronnie Lott. And he's obviously proven as a running back.

So where will B.J. Hill end up? Figuring that one out is probably the nicest dilemma Franks faces heading into his second season. ❑

B.J. HILL RUSHED FOR 121 YARDS IN HIS FIRST COLLEGIATE GAME. HE ENDED THE SEASON WITH 798 YARDS.

PHOTO BY STEVE BEYER

"We're searching for the right combination on defense," Franks admitted. "We've got a lot of new guys who are trying to learn this system."

Graduation claimed more than eight starters — it robbed the Duke defense of such solid players as tackle Chris Combs and linebacker Ryan Stallmeyer and Lamar Grant, players who anchored the defense for the last three years.

What's left is a collection of youngsters who haven't played and career backups who have never made much of an impact.

At least defensive coordinator Bob Trott, who once guided the nation's top-rated defensive unit at Clemson, has a solid core of linebackers to build around. Todd DeLamielleure, the son of former NFL star Joe DeLamielleure, returns in the middle, while 1999 sack leader Kendral Knight and senior Nate Krill, a 6-8, 260-pound behemoth, who has been compared to former NFL star Ted Hendricks, return on the outside.

Unfortunately, there's not much in front of them. Senior Troy Austin has been a pretty solid backup for most of his career, but Charles Porter is undersized at the other tackle and veterans Tyran Grissom and Nick Wilkerson have been disappointments since arriving with big prep reputations. But they'll play until youngsters such as Shawn Johnson, Russ Fenton and Eric Starns prove themselves.

"WE'RE IN THE PROCESS OF BUILDING OUR PROGRAM AND IT'S GOING TO TAKE TIME. I THINK WE'VE GOT A FOUNDATION WE CAN BUILD ON."

The situation in the secondary is just as unsettled. Junior Ronnie Hamilton is a solid veteran, but he'll be surrounded by newcomers. Quentin Holley, who will start at the other corner, has seen some action, but he'll have to elevate his game to hold his job. Until tested in games, there's no way to tell if kids such as Temo George, Josh Kreider, Derrick Lee, D'Juan O'Donald and Anthony Roberts can play at this level.

"The number one thing is, we've got to find some leadership (on defense)," Franks said. "I like the way they run to the ball though."

About the best Franks can hope for is that some of the youngsters break through this season, giving him a foundation he can build on. It's not going to be easy — Duke has been too down too long to turn it around right away.

"Certainly we have a challenge," Franks said not long ago. "We can achieve and be successful in football. The faculty, the administration is committed to success here."

But Franks has to make it happen on the field. And more than three decades of mediocrity stand as evidence of just how

FLORIDA STATE SEMINOLES

When he grows anxious, when videotape of opponents piles up and when doubts creep in, Bobby Bowden does what most of us do — he reaches for food. Chocolate, mostly. Bite-sized morsels that reside, however temporarily, in his desk drawer.

Yikes! 'Noles May be Even Better This Season

At 70, Bowden is no flat-belly, which is a testament to how much he is motivated by the most basic of instincts — fear.

"I'm a worry-wart," he says. "I probably don't worry as much as I used to when I was young and didn't know any better, but I still worry. I always think the other guy is out there working harder than I am, so I wonder what he's working on.

"I like to win, but ... I hate to lose."

So the chocolates remain. And in this season, Bowden's 25th at Florida State, they may be a strong metaphor for his latest team. If only the coach could impose his emotions, his immediate hunger, to his players. That internal on-off switch seems to be one of the few questions the Seminoles must answer to return as college football's national champions.

"That's our coaches' job," Bowden says. "Their job is make sure we're ready to play."

The Seminoles have considerably more experience than they believed they would have. A year ago, when Bowden and his staff began recruiting for 2000 and beyond, the 2000 season was suspect. Too many players — too many contributors — could leave, especially if the Seminoles ran the table in 1999. But some of those key players, given a 12-0 season and the school's second national championship, stayed in Tallahassee.

Surrendering an NCAA-record, 13-year streak of 10-win seasons does not appear to be on the agenda in Tallahassee. Oh, the Seminoles could use more linebackers, a few more experienced interior defensive linemen, one more experienced receiver and a top-notch backup quarterback. Who couldn't?

What FSU returns is another stellar group of athletes, some very young, some very old. It's not a stretch to have thought some of the older ones would be in an NFL camp somewhere: Instead, safety Derrick Gibson will play his senior season, as will tailback Travis Minor, defensive end Roland Seymour and linebacker Tommy Polley. The most shocking return came from quarterback Chris Weinke, who will be 28 years old by the time he takes a snap in August against Brigham Young.

Weinke was thought to be headed to the NFL following FSU's see-saw, 46-29 triumph over Virginia Tech in the Sugar Bowl. What outsiders did not know was how difficult the 1999 season was for Weinke, who returned from a serious neck injury and labored through arm and ankle pain most of the season. But he's back, and he has an agenda.

"The bottom line is really the same as it was last year, and that's to improve," says Weinke, who hopes to play at 235 pounds, nearly 20 pounds lighter than he was in 1999.

Weinke is the second star in as many years to inflate Florida State's preseason hopes. Last year the Seminoles were stunned to still have Peter Warrick on their team. Warrick staying in school, however, proved to have two sharp edges. One was displayed on a Dillard's security camera, the other on national television as he dominated the national championship game against Virginia Tech.

Now comes Weinke, who in three seasons has completed 55.8 percent of his passes for 5,672 yards and 46 touchdowns. By the end of 2000, he will move into the top 10 in career passing in the ACC and should be the new record-holder for career touchdown passes.

More pertinent to FSU is this: He is the first third-year starting quarterback Bowden has had in 20 years. No surprise, Weinke represents FSU's key ingredient for 2000.

Says Bowden only half-jokingly, "Not

at a glance

SEMINOLES

1999: 12-0 Overall; 8-0 ACC (1st)

COACH: Bobby Bowden — At Florida State: 231-53-4, 24 years; Overall: 384-85-4, 34 years

RETURNING STARTERS: 16; 7 Offense, 8 Defense, Punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH: QB Chris Weinke, S Derrick Gibson, TB Travis Minor, WR Robert Morgan, T Brett Williams, LB Brian Allen, LB Tommy Polley, DE Jamal Reynolds

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: Third-year (and 28-year-old) starting quarterback; arguably the best offensive line in Bowden's 25 seasons at FSU; blazing overall team speed; good blend of experience and youth.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: The weight of trying to defend a national title; depth at linebacker; a pass rush; a new kicker.

OVERVIEW: Given Weinke's return, FSU again is the pick to win the ACC — and maybe another national crown. As good as FSU's offense was in 1999 (37.5 ppg), this one might be better and more versatile. And this year the Bowl Championship Series title game is close to home at Pro Player Stadium in South Florida.

TOMMY POLLEY MISSED SPRING PRACTICE DUE TO RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY ON HIS RIGHT KNEE.

PHOTO BY BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN

NOLES
29

SEMINOLES RECRUITING

Name / Position	Size	Hometown	High School / College
BARRON, Alex OL	6-8, 297	Orangeburg, SC	Wilkinson
PrepStar All-American ◆ Rated No. 15 offensive lineman nationally by *SuperPrep* ◆ *Football News* All-American ◆ Ranked No. 19 offensive lineman nationally by *Rivals100.com* ◆ *Orlando Sentinel* All-South ◆ Graded 92 percent in blocking assignments ◆ As a senior, had 61 pancake blocks.			
BOULWARE, Michael WR	6-3, 200	Columbia, SC	Spring Valley
USA Today honorable mention All-American ◆ *SuperPrep* ranked No. 6 skill athlete nationally ◆ Rated No. 33 linebacker nationally by *Rivals100.com* ◆ Gatorade Player of the Year in South Carolina ◆ *Orlando Sentinel* All-South ◆ South Carolina All-Decade ◆ As a senior, had 56 receptions for 1,028 yards and 11 touchdowns.			
BUCHANAN, Yohance DB	6-1, 210	Atlanta, GA	Douglass
Parade All-American ◆ *USA Today* second-team All-American ◆ Ranked No. 4 defensive back nationally by *SuperPrep* ◆ *PrepStar* rated No. 1 safety in Southern Region ◆ *Football News* All-American ◆ *Rivals100.com* ranked No. 1 safety nationally ◆ Had 65 tackles and four interceptions as a senior.			
CASTILLO, David OL	6-2, 285	Palm Beach	Palm Beach Gardens
District Player of the Year ◆ Played in Florida-Georgia All-Star game ◆ As a senior, had 77 pancake blocks.			
CIMORELLI, Brett PK	6-4, 220	Zephyrhills	Zephyrhills
All-State ◆ Made nine of 14 field goal attempts, including from 55 yards and 54 yards, as a senior ◆ Put 26 of 28 kickoffs into or out of the endzone ◆ Made 63 of 67 extra points attempted in career.			
DARLING, Devard WR	6-3, 195	Houston, TX	Austin
SuperPrep ranked No. 24 wide receiver nationally and No. 28 prospect in Texas ◆ Rated No. 51 wide receiver nationally by *Rivals100.com* ◆ All-District ◆ Runs 4.4 in 40-yard dash.			
DARLING, Devaughn LB	6-2, 220	Houston, TX	Austin
Rated No. 6 linebacker in Midlands Region by *PrepStar* ◆ *SuperPrep* ranked No. 23 linebacker nationally and No. 27 prospect in Texas ◆ Rated No. 26 linebacker nationally by *Rivals100.com* ◆ District Most Valuable Player ◆ As a senior, had 143 tackles and 10 quarterback sacks ◆ Runs 4.5 in 40-yard dash.			
HARDAGE, Nate LB	6-2, 225	Sylvester, GA	Worth County
SuperPrep ranked No. 35 linebacker nationally ◆ All-State ◆ Had 144 tackles and 16 quarterback sacks.			
HOWARD, Charles DL	6-3, 215	Lake Butler	Union County
Played five games as a senior before breaking fibula ◆ Had 30 tackles and seven quarterback sacks as a senior ◆ As a junior, had 100 tackles and 17 quarterback sacks ◆ Runs 4.6 in 40-yard dash.			
JOHNSON, Travis DL	6-5, 240	Sherman Oaks, CA	Notre Dame
USA Today All-American ◆ *Parade* All-American ◆ *PrepStar* Dream Team, rated No. 2 prospect in West Region ◆ Ranked No. 2 defensive lineman nationally by *SuperPrep* ◆ *Football News* All-American ◆ Rated No. 2 defensive end nationally by *Rivals100.com* ◆ Had 104 tackles, 32 tackles for loss and 17 quarterback sacks.			
JONES, Greg TB	6-1, 225	Beaufort, SC	Battery Creek
SuperPrep ranked No. 12 running back nationally and No. 3 prospect in South Carolina ◆ *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* Super Southern 100 ◆ Rated No. 6 running back nationally by *Rivals100.com* ◆ As a senior, had 1,600 yards rushing and 18 touchdowns ◆ Had seven quarterback sacks.			
MASCOE, Chad LB	6-3, 225	Kissimmee	Osceola
Rated No. 5 skill athlete nationally by *SuperPrep* ◆ *Rivals100.com* ranked No. 7 linebacker prospect nationally ◆ *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* Super Southern 100 ◆ *Orlando Sentinel* All-Southern ◆ Four-year starter.			

Name / Position	Size	Hometown	High School / College
McFADDEN, Bryant DB	6-1, 180	Hollywood	McArthur
Parade All-American ◆ *USA Today* All-American ◆ *SuperPrep* ranked No. 1 defensive back nationally ◆ *Football News* All-American ◆ Rated No. 1 cornerback nationally by *Rivals100.com* ◆ *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* Super Southern 100 ◆ *Orlando Sentinel* All-Southern ◆ Had 75 tackles as a senior and as a junior.			
MEEKS, Bobby OL	6-3, 285	Aldine, TX	Nimitz
PrepStar Dream Team, rated No. 18 offensive lineman nationally ◆ Ranked No. 65 offensive lineman nationally by *Rivals100.com* ◆ *Austin American-Statesman* rated No. 47 prospect in Texas ◆ All-District ◆ Three-year starter.			
MOORE, Eric LB	6-4, 225	Pahokee	Pahokee
Parade All-American ◆ *USA Today* second-team All-American ◆ *PrepStar* Dream Team, ranked No. 6 prospect in Southeast Region ◆ *Football News* All-American ◆ Rated No. 7 linebacker nationally by *SuperPrep* ◆ *Rivals100.com* ranked No. 4 linebacker nationally ◆ As a junior, had 123 tackles and 10 quarterback sacks.			
OSEI, Claudius DB	6-1, 190	Tallahassee	North Florida Christian
German exchange student, arriving in United States in 1999 ◆ Played receiver for German club teams ◆ Helped team to state title ◆ As a senior, had 100 tackles, including 77 solo, 22 tackles for loss, four quarterback sacks, one interception returned for touchdown, three fumbles forced and one fumble recovered.			
POPE, Kendyll LB	6-2, 212	Lake City	Columbia
USA Today All-American ◆ *Parade* All-American ◆ Ranked No. 5 linebacker nationally by *SuperPrep* ◆ *PrepStar* Dream Team, rated No. 3 linebacker nationally ◆ *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* Super Southern 100 ◆ Ranked No. 14 prospect in Florida by *Tampa Tribune* ◆ All-State.			
RIX, Chris QB	6-4, 210	Santa Margarita, CA	Santa Margarita
USA Today honorable mention All-American ◆ Rated No. 15 prospect in Western Region by *PrepStar* ◆ *Rivals100.com* ranked No. 5 quarterback prospect nationally ◆ As a senior, had 900 yards passing and 550 yards rushing and six touchdowns ◆ Had 288 yards receiving, second on his team.			
SMITH, Leroy DB	6-0, 180	Quincy	Shanks
SuperPrep rated No. 81 prospect in Florida ◆ All-Big Bend ◆ Had 71 tackles and five interceptions as a senior ◆ Had 16 career interceptions.			
WALKER, Fabian QB	6-2, 205	Americus, GA	Americus
USA Today honorable mention All-American ◆ *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* Super Southern 100 ◆ *Orlando Sentinel* All-Southern ◆ Ranked No. 66 prospect nationally by *Tampa Tribune* ◆ Georgia Player of the Year in 1998 ◆ Set Georgia state record for career passing yards (8,281) and touchdowns (81).			
WALKER, Javon WR	6-3, 190	Lafayette, LA	Jones (MS) JC
Participated in spring practice ◆ *SuperPrep* rated No. 5 junior college prospect nationally ◆ Ranked No. 75 junior college prospect by *PrepStar* ◆ Had 96 receptions for 1,556 yards and 14 touchdowns in junior college career.			
WARD, B. J. DB	6-4, 200	Dallas, TX	Kimball
PrepStar All-Big 12 Region, ranked No. 3 defensive back prospect regionally ◆ As a senior, had 72 tackles and three interceptions returned for touchdowns ◆ Had six interceptions as a junior ◆ Runs 4.4 in 40-yard dash.			
WILLIS, Ray OL	6-6, 275	Angelton, TX	Angelton
SuperPrep rated No. 28 offensive lineman nationally ◆ *PrepStar* honorable mention All-Midlands Region ◆ Ranked No. 34 offensive lineman nationally by *Rivals100.com* ◆ All-District ◆ Honorable mention All-State.			

A LOOK AT THE SEMINOLES

RESULTS

(12-0, 8-0)

41	Louisiana Tech	7
41	Georgia Tech	35
42	N.C. State	11
42	North Carolina	10
51	Duke	23
31	Miami	21
33	Wake Forest	10
17	Clemson	14
35	Virginia	10
49	Maryland	10
30	Florida	23
	Sugar Bowl	
46	Virginia Tech	29

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Passing

Name	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int
Outzen	26	12	169	46.2	1	1
Weinke	377	232	3103	61.5	25	14

Rushing

Name	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD
Minor	180	815	4.5	47	7
Chaney	43	157	3.7	23	2
Maddox	29	111	3.8	9	0
Warrick	16	96	6.0	21	3

Receiving

Name	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD
Warrick	71	934	13.2	59	8
Dugans	43	644	15.0	84	3
Minnis	19	257	13.5	27	3
Morgan	16	245	15.3	38	0

Defensive Leaders

Tackles: Polley 109; Allen 101; Jennings 92; Simon 84.

Interceptions: Hope 4; Gibson 4; Thomas 3; Cody 2; Key 2.

QB Sacks: Reynolds 7; Allen 5; Simon 4; Polley 3; Benford 3.

Tackles For Loss: Simon 21; Reynolds 11; Johnson 9.

SCHEDULE

Aug. 26	vs. BYU*
Sept. 9	at Georgia Tech
Sept. 16	North Carolina
Sept. 23	Louisville
Sept. 28	at Maryland
Oct. 7	at Miami
Oct. 14	Duke
Oct. 21	Virginia
Oct. 28	at N.C. State
Nov. 4	Clemson
Nov. 11	at Wake Forest
Nov. 18	Florida

*Pigskin Classic; Jacksonville, FL

many coaches can watch 28-year-old men line up for them."

What Weinke brings for his senior season should be critical, because the Seminoles don't have Warrick and Sebastian Janikowski — FSU's only early entry into the 2000 NFL draft — to bail them out anymore.

Bowden returns seven offensive starters, seven on defense and his punter. For the ninth year in a row, the Seminoles are favored to win the ACC. They have so many young skill players and just enough experience to warrant no surprise if they again play for a national title, this time at the Orange Bowl on Jan. 3.

"The key to this team: the offensive line," Bowden says. "If those guys can get their bonnet on the right guy, they mash 'em. That is the group that can carry this team. We've got skill everywhere else."

In all, FSU may have its best and deepest group of blockers ever. Competition is everywhere. Tackle Tarlos Thomas is an all-star in waiting, but there are days he's not better than sophomore Brett Williams.

Justin Amman won a job at guard after his sophomore season and could be All-ACC as a senior. Otis Duhart moved into the other starting guard slot after Jerry Carmichael re-injured his knee in the spring. Jarad Moon fought off Antoine Mirambeau at center.

"Last year we had some guys hurt and rolled people in and out of games," Amman says. "Except for Jason (Whitaker) and E.T. (center Eric Thomas), we're all back, all seven of us. It seems like we've been here forever."

The same can't be said on defense. In fact, the defense is somewhat suspect. When assistant head coach Chuck Amato left for North Carolina State, defensive coordinator Mickey Andrews called on longtime buddy Joe Kines to run FSU's thin linebacking corps. Kines is battle-tested and healthy. Not all his players can say the same.

Outside linebacker Tommy Polley missed spring practice due to reconstructive surgery on his right knee after being hurt in the Sugar Bowl. Enter Kendyll Pope, a freshman who signed with FSU in 1999 but did not meet academic requirements until December. Pope was considered an immediate starter coming out of high school, and he performed that way in the spring.

Former walkon Jean Jeune moved from defensive back to outside linebacker and defensive lineman Jerel Hudson moved to linebacker to help the need for able bodies.

"The thing is, we have our three starters back," Bowden says. "If they stay healthy, you don't have anything to worry about. But you got to have depth. We signed a lot of linebackers because we recognize that fact."

CHRIS WEINKE HAS COMPLETED 55.8 PERCENT OF HIS PASSES FOR 5,672 YARDS AND 46 TOUCHDOWNS IN THREE SEASONS.

PHOTO BY SCOTT HALLERAN/ALLSPORT

"Everybody's got the potential up front. We've just got to keep getting better as games go on," middle linebacker Bradley Jenning says. "We can do the same thing we did last year."

There is a little issue of replacing one of the best tackle tandems Bowden enjoyed since Ron Simmons became a professional wrestler. Gone are Corey Simon and Jerry Johnson, the core of a defensive front that gave up an average of only 98.8 rushing yards in 1999. Although FSU's sack total dropped from 40 to 29, the fact remains the Seminoles dearly would love not to have to replace Simon and Johnson in the same season. Chief candidates are Chris Woods and Kevin Emanuel. Depth should come from Tony Benford.

FSU's secondary, which boasts two all-league talents at safety in Derrick Gibson and Chris Hope, is the strength of the defense. Tay Cody returns at one cornerback, and Clevan "Cookie" Thomas, who started seven games a year ago, will be the other corner.

Depth exists in the defensive backfield, too, but Andrews would prefer not to have to rely on a great secondary to bail out his defense. He'd like to have a pass rush back.

"I think we'll be OK," Hope says. "Once everybody gets healthy, you'll see what they can do up front and what we can do as a defense."

Regardless, there's a chance the Seminoles won't have to rely on their defense. Their offense, even without Warrick, is that good.

FSU is further than it has a right to be. Had Weinke turned pro early, the Seminoles high-powered tradition would be in the hands of Marcus Outzen or Jared Jones.

Weinke, though, affords offensive coordinator Mark Richt more comfort when he thinks about bringing receivers up to speed quickly. Warrick must be replaced, and it's unlikely one man can do the job. Warrick leaves 71 receptions and 103.8 yards per game to replace.

"I think what teams are going to see is that we have a lot of guys who can catch the ball and make big plays, and that there won't be any one guy that defenses can focus on like last year," says receiver Javon Walker, a junior college transfer.

"The whole group will have to make up for Pete," Bowden says. "Maybe one of them will emerge as a big-play maker."

This year offers no guarantees, but plenty of promise in Robert Morgan, Marvin Minnis, Anquan Boldin, Atrews Bell and Walker. The two most dynamic possibilities are Boldin, who shadowed Warrick everywhere last year except Dillard's, and Walker, a 6-4 receiver.

With all due respect to Warrick, the absence of Janikowski could prove more difficult to replace. In three years at FSU,

FLORIDA STATE

SEMINOLES SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Class	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown
55	Brian Allen	LB	Sr	6-2	225	Lake City
64	Justin Amman	OG	Sr	6-4	305	Eustis
67	Josh Baggs	C	Jr	6-1	305	Camilla, GA
26	Atrews Bell	FLK	Jr	5-11	201	Jacksonville
97	Tony Benford	DT	So	6-4	270	Denver, CO
4	Anquan Boldin	WR	So	6-2	205	Pahokee
51	Ronald Boldin	OG	Sr	6-5	291	Pahokee
76	Ross Brannon	OT	Jr	6-8	310	Marietta, GA
31	Rufus Brown	DB	Fr	5-10	185	El Paso, TX
71	Jerry Carmichael	OG	Sr	6-4	310	Plantation
95	Rian Cason	DT	So	6-5	285	College Park, GA
24	Jeff Chaney	RB	Sr	6-0	200	Lake Wales
27	Tay Cody	CB	Sr	5-11	180	Blakely, GA
40	Cornelius Collier	LB	Fr	6-1	220	Miami
47	Keith Cottrell	P	Sr	6-4	205	Orlando
45	Darnell Dockett	DL	Fr	6-4	260	Burtonsville, MD
88	Darver Donaldson	TE	Jr	6-6	245	Lakeland
75	Char-ron Dorsey	OT	Sr	6-7	325	Jacksonville
74	Otis Duhart	OT	So	6-4	290	Belle Glades
90	Kevin Emanuel	DE	Fr	6-4	250	Waco, TX
22	Davy Ford	TB	Jr	5-11	188	West Palm Beach
81	Nick Franklin	TE	Sr	6-3	255	St. Petersburg
21	Talman Gardner	SE	So	6-2	195	New Orleans, LA
6	Derrick Gibson	RV	Sr	6-2	207	Miami
43	Randy Golightly	FB	So	6-2	237	Tallahassee
43	Chance Gwaltney	K/P	Jr	5-10	165	Cairo, GA
78	Donald Heaven	OG	Sr	6-5	305	Miami
61	Montrae Holland	O	So	6-3	325	Ore City, TX
28	Chris Hope	OG	Jr	6-2	195	Rock Hill, SC
12	Abdual Howard	RB	Jr	6-1	190	Quincy
42	Jerel Hudson	LB	So	6-3	230	Homestead
82	Patrick Hughes	TE	Jr	6-5	245	Nacogdoches, TX
84	Gennaro Jackson	SE	Jr	6-1	182	Jacksonville
94	O.J. Jackson	DE	So	6-2	255	Miami
48	Alonzo Jackson	DL	So	6-4	245	Americus, GA
44	Bradley Jennings	LB	Jr	6-3	230	Miami
32	Jean Jeune	RB	Sr	5-9	195	Boynton Beach
11	Jared Jones	QB	Jr	6-5	235	Walla Walla, WA
20	Nick Maddox	RB	So	6-0	190	Kannapolis, NC
39	Chad Maeder	FB	Jr	6-3	240	Brooksville
36	William McCray	RB	Jr	6-0	225	Jacksonville
13	Marvin Minnis	FLK	Sr	6-1	185	Miami
23	Travis Minor	TB	Sr	6-1	190	Baton Rouge, LA
52	Antoine Mirambeau	C	So	6-4	280	Miami
54	Jarad Moon	C	Sr	6-4	300	Panama City
19	Greg Moore	FLK	So	6-1	185	Bartow
87	Robert Morgan	SE	Jr	6-0	180	East Point, GA
30	Brandon Myers	DB	So	5-11	190	Tallahassee
14	Marcus Outzen	QB	Sr	6-2	220	Ft. Walton Beach
33	Lemar Parrish	RB	So	6-1	190	Miami
29	Tommy Polley	LB	Sr	6-5	233	Baltimore, MD
58	Jamal Reynolds	DE	Sr	6-4	254	Aiken, SC
30	Stanford Samuels	CB	Fr	5-10	180	Miami
56	Roland Seymour	DE	Sr	6-4	264	New Orleans, LA
85	Ryan Sprague	TE	Sr	6-5	260	Augusta, GA
3	Malcolm Tatum	CB	So	6-1	180	Miami
8	Clevan Thomas	CB	Sr	6-0	175	Miami
60	Tarlos Thomas	OT	Sr	6-5	320	Monticello
99	David Warren	DE	Sr	6-5	250	Tyler, TX
41	Lee Weaver	LB	So	6-3	220	Live Oak
16	Chris Weinke	QB	Sr	6-5	240	St. Paul, MN
96	Randy Wilkins	NG	Sr	6-3	245	Jacksonville
72	Brett Williams	OT	So	6-6	315	Kissimmee
79	Todd Williams	OT	So	6-6	300	Bradenton
91	Jeff Womble	DL	Fr	6-3	295	Dunwoody, GA
98	Chris Woods	NG	So	6-3	250	Orlando

Roster and depth chart subject to change.

2000 PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Chris Weinke, Sr*/Marcus Outzen, Sr
TB	Travis Minor, Sr*/Jeff Chaney, Sr
FB	William McCray, Jr*/Chad Maeder, Jr
WR	Marvin Minnis, Sr/Atrews Bell, Jr
WR	Robert Morgan, Jr/Anquan Boldin, So
WR	Talman Gardner, So/Jevon Walker, Jr
LT	Brett Williams, So*/Donald Heaven, Sr
LG	Justin Amman, Sr*/Ronald Boldin, Sr
C	Jarad Moon, Sr/Antoine Mirambeau, So
RG	Montrae Holland, So/Jerry Carmichael, Sr*
RT	Tarlos Thomas, Sr*/Char-ron Dorsey, Sr
PK	Brett Cimorelli, Fr/Chance Gwaltney, Jr

DEFENSE	
DE	Jamal Reynolds, Sr*/Darnell Dockett, Fr
DT	Kevin Emanuel, Fr/Tony Benford, So
NT	Chris Woods, So/Rian Cason, So
DE	Roland Seymour, Sr*/David Warren, Sr
OLB	Tommy Polley, Sr*/Kendyll Pope, Fr
MLB	Bradley Jennings, Jr*/Jerel Hudson, So
OLB	Brian Allen, Sr*/Jean Jeune, Sr
CB	Clevan Thomas, Sr*/Malcom Tatum, So
CB	Tay Cody, Sr*/Rufus Brown, Fr
ROV	Derrick Gibson, Sr*/Abdual Howard, Jr
FS	Chris Hope, So/B.J. Ward, Fr
P	Keith Cottrell, Sr*/Chance Gwaltney, Jr

SPRING UPDATE

When linebackers coach Chuck Amato left Florida State to become head coach at North Carolina State, FSU defensive coordinator Mickey Andrews, given his pick of replacements, picked longtime friend Joe Kines. It was a controversial choice because of whom Andrews didn't pick: Former FSU linebackers coach Wally Burnham, the man who coached Butkus Award winners Paul McGowan and Marvin Jones, among a slew of other talented players from 1985-93.

Burnham left FSU after its 1993 national championship to help Brad Scott rebuild at South Carolina, but was not called by his former boss. Kines, with whom Andrews coached at Clemson and Florida, was the one and only candidate as Amato's replacement.

Kines' good fortune will be peppered by hard work. Although the Seminoles return three starting linebackers, there is little experience behind those three. And this for a defense which rotates players early and often.

"He did a good job," FSU coach Bobby Bowden said of Kines following spring drills. "Mickey knows what he's doing."

Kines' first star pupil: Freshman Kendyll Pope. His first project: Freshman Cornelius Collier, whom the Seminoles thought would be a key contributor, but has proved too big and slow.

• The past two starting kickers earned jobs as freshmen and at some point earned championship rings. Brett Cimorelli should have half that in August. Cimorelli likely will replace celebrated Sebastian Janikowski, who as a freshman replaced solid Scott Bentley. Chance Gwaltney showed enough inconsistency in the spring to warrant high hopes for Cimorelli, a tall versatile athlete.

• Offensive coordinator Mark Richt was delighted to have tailback Davy Ford back. Ford returns after knee injuries cost him most of two seasons.

• With two senior quarterbacks and freshman Fabian Walker lighting up the spring, Richt is considering redshirting junior Jared Jones and playing Walker as the third quarterback. Strangely, it might be the only way to prevent Jones from leaving football to play professional baseball.

• The biggest eye-catcher of the spring was athletic 6-3 receiver Javon Walker, a transfer from Jones (Miss.) Junior College. "He's a little raw, but he looks like he might be something special," receivers coach Jeff Bowden said.

— Alan Schmadtke

FLORIDA STATE

Emerging From Warrick's Shadow

Bobby Bowden admits it: He loves quarterbacks. Even if a player never takes a snap for him, Florida State's coach embraces the idea of a roster full of high school quarterbacks.

"Because you know if they played quarterback they understand the game, and you know they're pretty good athletes," Bowden said.

Anquan Boldin fits both. It is not coincidence that the man Boldin will try to help FSU replace also made some noise as a high school quarterback. Guy named Peter Warrick.

"Kind of funny, huh?" FSU offensive coordinator Mark Richt said.

Boldin, a sophomore, arrived at Florida State last fall as an all-state quarterback and took a few snaps behind Chris Weinke before coaches moved him to receiver. He took no time to make an immediate impression.

In FSU's 1999 season-opening victory over Louisiana Tech, Boldin caught two passes, both for touchdowns, one on an acrobatic play against an on-guard defensive back.

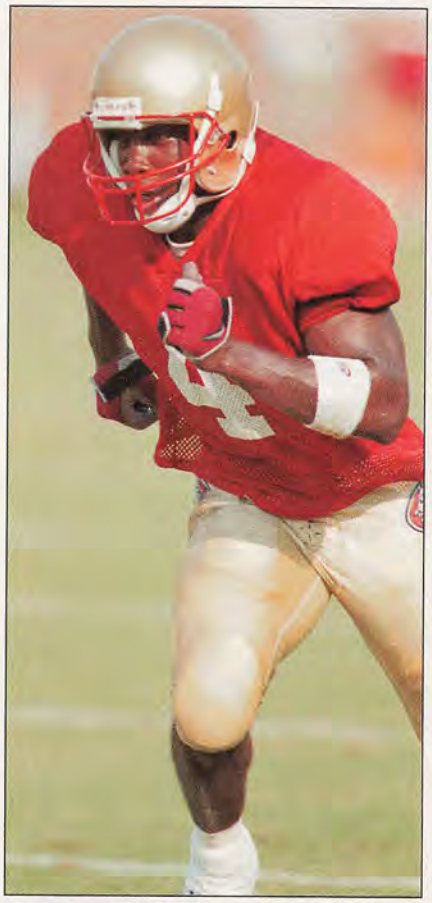
Unfortunately for Boldin, the rest of '99 was less spectacular. The first two scoring passes were his only two. He finished the season with 12 receptions for 115 yards, and an ankle injury hampered some of his progress.

Game days, though, were the least of his learning. Florida State's coaches asked Warrick, an All-American, to take Boldin under his wing. They asked Boldin to shadow Warrick, to learn how hard great players work at becoming — and remaining — great.

"I learned so much I can't even tell you," Boldin said. "Pete showed me the ropes. Now it's my turn to grow and then show some other people the ropes."

Boldin is one of several candidates to fill statistical and leadership voids left by Warrick. He is also one of the biggest. At 6-2, 205 pounds, Boldin presents Weinke with his biggest downfield target. And opponents are forewarned: To paraphrase receivers coach Jeff Bowden, "Weinke didn't return for his senior year to hand the ball off."

"I think we're going to throw and have as much fun this year as we did last year — maybe more," Boldin said. "I'm excited. I'm happy about it. I think it's going to be special." ❑



AT 6-2, 205 POUNDS, ANQUAN BOLDIN PRESENTS CHRIS WEINKE WITH HIS BIGGEST DOWNFIELD TARGET.

PHOTO BY RICK JONES

Janikowski planted 146 of 246 career kickoffs (59.3 percent) so deep they were not returned. Last year's percentage was 68.7 (57 of 83). That's an automatic starting spot at the 20-yard line for the opposing offense. For a die-hard conservative like Bowden, a dose of Janikowski is like a dose of Rush Limbaugh.

Chance Gwaltney was consistent if not overwhelming in the spring during his first look as Janikowski's possible replacement. Freshman Brett Cimorelli gets a chance this fall.

Bowden is not worried about his punter. Keith Cottrell returns for his senior season. In 1999, FSU's net punting average was second in the country. Although he does not possess the strongest leg in the ACC, Cottrell has grown increasingly better at pooch kicking.

The Seminoles tackle a 12-game schedule for the fourth time in 10 years, having added BYU in the Kickoff Classic on a "neutral" field in Jacksonville. Eight of the 12 will be played in Florida, six at Doak Campbell Stadium, where FSU has won 29 in a row. It has not lost at home since 1991. It will be a record worth watching when Clemson comes to Tallahassee on Nov. 4. The Tigers threatened to derail Florida State's title express in 1999 until a late Janikowski field goal was the difference in a 17-14 game.

IT'S A PRIMARY STORY OF 2000, THE COUNTRY'S OLDEST QUARTERBACK TRYING TO WIN BACK-TO-BACK NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS WITH TWO CONSIDERABLY DIFFERENT TEAMS. NO ONE, HOWEVER, DENIES THE POTENTIAL.

Potholes — or cliffs — include an October date at the Orange Bowl against Miami. The trip south, though, should make Bowden even more thankful for Weinke's decision to stay put. In 1998, he broke a long losing streak of FSU's first-year starting quarterbacks against the Hurricanes in Miami.

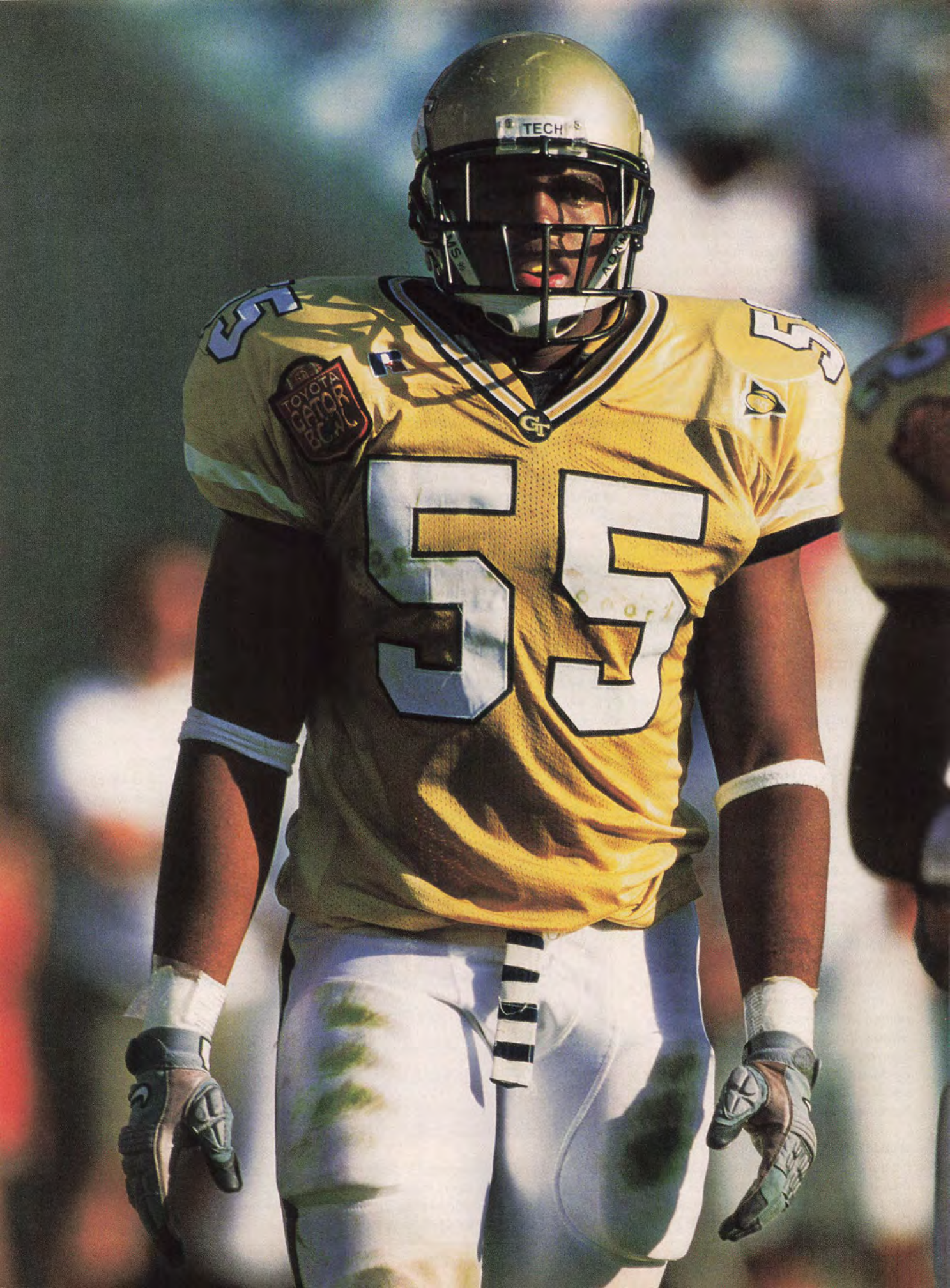
It's a primary story of 2000, the country's oldest quarterback trying to win back-to-back national championships with two considerably different teams. No one, however, denies the potential.

"Last year we had freakish talent, Peter Warrick and Janikowski and guys like that," Amman says, echoing a refrain heard often around the ACC. "This year we're better all-around. The young guys here, I can't believe how good they are."

Better all around.

Little consolation for the ACC, but it might do something for Bowden's chocolate intake.

— Alan Schmadtke


TECH
TOYOTA
GATOR
BOWL
55

GEORGIA TECH YELLOW JACKETS

Tech Looking to Fill Big Shoes

For a guy who stood only 5-10 and weighed 190 pounds after a big meal, Joe Hamilton has left a big hole in the Georgia Tech program.

Hamilton, the diminutive quarterback and last year's Heisman Trophy runner-up to Wisconsin tailback Ron Dayne, led the Yellow Jackets' rise from ACC also-ran to a Top 25 team during his last three years as a starter.

Under Hamilton, the Jackets advanced to a bowl game three straight years for the first time since 1970-72. But Hamilton has gone on to professional football, and there are concerns about what the Tech program might become without him.

"It ain't going to be like it's been," admitted Ralph Friedgen, the Jackets' refreshingly candid offensive coordinator. "We've got a young line, a young quarterback and young backs."

With Hamilton directing Friedgen's multiple, pro-style attack, the Jackets led the nation in total offense (509 yards a game) and were second in scoring (40.7 points) last season.

But Tech could fall victim to over-scheduling this year. The Jackets face last year's top two teams in the season's first three weeks, traveling to national runner-up Virginia Tech on Aug. 27 for the Black Coaches Association Classic, before hosting defending champion Florida State two weeks later.

Tech passed up a chance to play Penn State last year in the Pigskin Classic, and that was with Hamilton returning. So why would the Jackets schedule an extra game this August knowing they would have a new starter at quarterback?

"I really wanted to get our quarterback some experience before we head into the conference schedule," Tech coach George O'Leary said.

When O'Leary scheduled the Virginia Tech game last winter, he wasn't even sure who his quarterback would be. O'Leary has a better idea now, although he is not filling out the depth chart in permanent marker.

Redshirt junior George Godsey emerged from spring drills as the Jackets' No. 1 quarterback, edging out redshirt freshman Andy Hall mainly on experience. Because Hamilton seldom was injured, however, Godsey saw little action the past two years while apprenticing under Hamilton.

Godsey has attempted only 32 passes since arriving from Tampa three years ago, completing 13 for 146 yards, no touchdowns and one interception. At 6-2, 202 pounds, Godsey doesn't throw the ball exceptionally well or have blazing speed. But what Godsey does do is make good decisions, recognizing coverages and picking out the right audibles and limiting his mistakes in a complicated offensive scheme, which features everything from flex-option package to five-wideout sets.

On the other hand, Hall, a 6-2, 190-pounder from Cheraw, S.C., showed more upside than Godsey during the spring, airing out 60-yard passes and turning sacks into 15-yard scrambles. But Hall also made the mental errors typical of a young starter, and that ultimately cost him the No. 1 spot.

"The big thing George has is experience being in the system for three years. It's not the easiest thing to pick up," Friedgen said. "George can see things that Andy hasn't, yet Andy has improved on that. He doesn't make too many mistakes twice."

Should Godsey falter in the preseason, O'Leary has no qualms about turning over the starting job to Hall. The Jackets also have two talented freshman quarterbacks arriving in the fall in Brandon Sumner and Mark Logan, although it's doubtful that either could digest Friedgen's playbook in time for the opener at Virginia Tech.

"The competition will still continue in the preseason. Hall made up a lot of distance," O'Leary promised. "Like every other position, (starters) take the first snap in the preseason, but I'm not guaranteeing the second."

Whoever emerges as Hamilton's successor will have a good nucleus of skilled

DEFENSIVE END GREG GATHERS WAS SECOND-TEAM FRESHMAN ALL-AMERICAN.
PHOTO BY SCOTT HALLERAN/ALLSPORT

at a glance

YELLOW JACKETS

1999: 8-4 Overall; 5-3 ACC (2nd)
COACH: George O'Leary — At Georgia Tech: 36-25, 5 years; Overall: 36-25, 5 years
RETURNING STARTERS: 16; 6 Offense; 8 Defense; Kicker; Punter
PLAYERS TO WATCH: RB Joe Burns, RB Sean Gregory, WR Kelly Campbell, T Chris Brown, SS Chris Young, DE Felipe Claybrooks, DT Greg Gathers
PRIMARY STRENGTHS: Experience and talent at all skilled positions except quarterback. The defense, maligned the last three years, could be the difference, with Young and Claybrooks leading the charge.
POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: A young offensive line protecting an inexperienced quarterback could ground Tech's offense.
OVERVIEW: How will Tech respond to the loss of quarterback Joe Hamilton? Much talent returns on both sides of the ball, but the Yellow Jackets' fortunes are tied to quarterback George Godsey. If Tech can survive a murderous, three-week stretch to open the season, it could contend for its fourth straight bowl game.

YELLOW JACKETS RECRUITING

Name / Position	Size	Hometown	High School / College
COX, Jonathan DB	5-11, 185	Chicago, IL	De La Salle
USA Today honorable mention All-American ◆ Rated No. 65 player in Midwest Region by *SuperPrep* ◆ As a senior, had 140 tackles and four interceptions, including one returned for touchdown ◆ Had 18 receptions for 250 yards and seven touchdowns ◆ Had 72 tackles and three interceptions as a junior.			
CURRY, Nate WR	5-10, 180	Miami, FL	Monsignor Pace
SuperPrep ranked No. 39 player in Florida ◆ Rated No. 59 player in Florida by *Florida Prep Football* ◆ Had 1,000 yards rushing and 10 touchdowns as a senior ◆ As a junior, had 1,400 yards rushing and 18 touchdowns ◆ State champion in 100-meter dash as a sophomore.			
DIXON, Jimmy RB	6-2, 210	Arlington, TX	Martin
USA Today honorable mention All-American ◆ *PrepStar* All-American ◆ Rated No. 5 running back nationally by Rivalnet ◆ *Fort Worth Star Telegram* Offensive Player of the Year ◆ All-State ◆ As a senior, had 2,529 yards and 28 touchdowns on 298 carries ◆ Had two 300-yard games.			
FOSCHI, J. P. TE	6-5, 245	Old Brookville, NY	Chaminade
PrepStar All-American ◆ *SuperPrep* All-American, ranked No. 14 tight end nationally ◆ Had 18 receptions for 250 yards and two touchdowns as a senior ◆ Had 45 tackles and 12 quarterback sacks ◆ As a junior, had 22 receptions for 330 yards and three touchdowns ◆ Four-year letterman in football and basketball ◆ National Honor Society.			
FOX, Keyaron LB	6-4, 220	Atlanta	Westlake
SuperPrep ranked No. 43 player in Georgia ◆ *Atlanta Journal Constitution* Top 75 ◆ As a senior, had 139 tackles, six interceptions, seven quarterback sacks, five fumbles caused and five fumbles recovered ◆ Had nine receptions for 400 yards ◆ Had 83 tackles, 20 quarterbacks sacks and eight interceptions as a junior.			
GRAVIET, Matt OL	6-2, 265	Lewes, DE	Cape Henlopen
Participated in spring practice ◆ Delaware Gridiron Club Lineman of the Year ◆ All-State ◆ All-Conference ◆ Delaware heavyweight wrestling champion.			
GREEN, Sterling S	6-3, 210	Hyattsville, MD	Northwestern
SuperPrep rated No. 19 player in Mid-Atlantic Region ◆ *Eastern Football Journal* All-East Elite ◆ Ranked No. 16 player in Maryland by *ACC Sports Journal* ◆ Second-team All-State ◆ All-County ◆ All-League.			
HOLIDAY, Hobie LB	6-4, 230	Warner Robins	Houston County
Parade All-American ◆ *USA Today* honorable mention All-American ◆ *Atlanta Journal Constitution* Super 11 and Super Southern 100 ◆ Played in seven games as a senior before suffering a broken ankle ◆ Had 72 tackles, six quarterback sacks and two kicks blocked ◆ As a junior, had 102 tackles and eight quarterback sacks.			
HOLLINGS, Tony DB	6-0, 200	Jeffersonville	Twiggs County
Ranked No. 54 player in Dixie Region by *SuperPrep* ◆ *Atlanta Journal Constitution* Super Southern 100 ◆ As a senior, had 1,360 yards rushing and 10 touchdowns ◆ Completed passes for 672 yards and seven touchdowns ◆ Had 25 tackles, one interception return and one punt return for touchdown.			
JACKSON, Johnathan FB	6-2, 230	Jacksonville, FL	Bolles School
SuperPrep rated No. 51 player in Florida ◆ Ranked No. 28 player in Florida by *ACC Sports Journal* ◆ *Florida Prep Football* rated No. 75 player in Florida.			
KOON, Reggie DL	6-4, 275	Miramar, FL	Miramar
SuperPrep All-American, ranked No. 37 player in Florida ◆ Rated No. 46 player in Florida by *Florida Prep Football* ◆ Broward County Super 11 ◆ All-State ◆ Two-way player ◆ As a senior, had 18 quarterback sacks in 10 games.			

Name / Position	Size	Hometown	High School / College
LOGAN, Mark QB	6-0, 185	Greenwood, SC	Greenwood
USA Today South Carolina Player of the Year ◆ South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association Mr. Football ◆ *Atlanta Journal Constitution* Super Southern 100 ◆ Led team to state title, scoring three touchdowns in title game ◆ Responsible for 45 touchdowns, including 27 passing and 18 rushing, as a senior ◆ Completed passes for 2,184 yards while rushing for 545 yards.			
LUMAR, Brian WR/ATH	6-0, 190	Edgard, LA	White
All-State ◆ All-Metro ◆ All-District ◆ As a senior, had 66 receptions for 1,009 yards and 14 touchdowns.			
MALONE, Alfred DE	6-4, 240	Frisco City, AL	Frisco City
SuperPrep All-American, rated No. 38 defensive lineman nationally and No. 25 player in Alabama ◆ Four-year starter ◆ Had 82 tackles, six quarterback sacks, six fumbles caused and two fumbles recovered as a senior ◆ Had 550 yards rushing and three touchdowns ◆ As a junior, had 62 tackles and four quarterback sacks ◆ Scored six touchdowns.			
MINCEY, Derrick FB	6-1, 275	Lyons	Toombs County
Atlanta Journal Constitution Top 75 ◆ All-Coastal Empire ◆ As a senior, had 803 yards rushing and 14 touchdowns ◆ Had 72 tackles, seven quarterback sacks and three fumbles caused ◆ One of the top heavyweight wrestlers in Georgia.			
PHILLIPS, Jeremy OL	6-7, 295	Watkinsville	Oconee County
Street & Smith Prep All-American ◆ *SuperPrep* ranked No. 36 player in Georgia and No. 78 player in Dixie Region ◆ *Atlanta Journal Constitution* Top 75 ◆ Two-time All-State ◆ Four-year starter.			
ROBINSON, Leon OL	6-4, 275	Garden City	Groves
Rated No. 37 player in Georgia and No. 88 player in Dixe Region by *SuperPrep* ◆ *Atlanta Journal Constitution* Top 75 ◆ Top ranked heavyweight wrestler in Georgia.			
SMITH, Daryl LB	6-3, 225	Albany	Dougherty County
Atlanta Journal Constitution Top 75 ◆ *Florida BlueChips* Report Super Southern 75 ◆ As a senior, had 120 tackles, three quarterback sacks, three fumbles caused and two fumbles recovered.			
SMITH, Jonathan ATH	5-11, 180	Argyle	Clinch County
All-State ◆ All-Area ◆ All-Region ◆ Played quarterback, wide receiver and defensive back and is projected as a receiver ◆ As a senior, had 710 yards rushing and 386 yards passing and scored 12 touchdowns ◆ Had 49 tackles and 10 interceptions ◆ Had 24 receptions for 256 yards and three touchdowns as a junior.			
SUMNER, Brandon QB	6-3, 200	Daytona Beach, FL	Mainland
USA Today honorable mention All-American ◆ Ranked No. 13 quarterback nationally by RivalNet and *SuperPrep* ◆ *Atlanta Journal Constitution* Super Southern 100 ◆ *Florida BlueChips* Report Fabulous Fifty ◆ Passed for 1,666 yards and 19 touchdowns as a senior ◆ Had 752 yards rushing and 14 touchdowns ◆ As a junior, passed for 1,730 yards and 19 touchdowns with four interceptions ◆ Had 677 yards rushing and nine touchdowns.			
WILLIAMS, Chirod DE	6-4, 235	Jacksonville, FL	Trinity Christian
Ranked No. 50 player in Florida by *Florida BlueChips* ◆ *Florida Prep Football* rated among Top 100 players in Florida ◆ *Florida Times-Union* Super 25 ◆ Second-team All-State ◆ As a senior, had 71 tackles and 12 quarterback sacks ◆ Had 53 tackles and eight quarterback sacks as a junior.			
WILLIAMS, Darius TE	6-6, 230	Clarkston	Avondale
PrepStar All-American ◆ Rated No. 20 player in Georgia by *SuperPrep* ◆ *Atlanta Journal Constitution* Top 75 ◆ Had 16 receptions for 170 yards in nine games as a senior.			

A LOOK AT THE YELLOW JACKETS

RESULTS

(8-4, 5-3)

49	Navy	14
35	Florida State	41
41	Central Florida	10
49	Maryland	31
31	North Carolina (OT)	24
38	Duke	31
48	N.C. State	21
38	Virginia	45
45	Clemson	42
23	Wake Forest	26
51	Georgia (OT)	48
	Gator Bowl	
13	Miami	28

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Passing

Name	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int
Hamilton	305	203	3060	66.6	29	11
Godsey	13	5	57	38.5	16	1

Rushing

Name	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD
Gregory	172	837	4.9	48	13
Hamilton	154	734	4.8	41	6
Rogers	72	310	4.3	17	8
Watkins	10	104	10.4	26	0

Receiving

Name	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD
Campbell	69	1105	16.0	59	10
White	44	860	19.5	80	5
Watkins	33	476	14.4	31	6
Gregory	12	150	12.5	56	0

Defensive Leaders

Tackles: Wimbush 91; Young 89; Gathers 71; Muyres 69.
Interceptions: Hester 2; Wimbush 1; Young 1; Tillman 1.
QB Sacks: Gathers 7; Claybrooks 5; Watson 2; Rogers 2.
Tackles For Loss: Gathers 18; Claybrooks 13; Watson 9.

SCHEDULE

Aug. 27	at Virginia Tech*
Sept. 2	Central Florida
Sept. 9	Florida State
Sept. 16	Navy
Sept. 21	at N.C. State
Sept. 30	at North Carolina
Oct. 14	Wake Forest
Oct. 21	Duke
Oct. 28	at Clemson
Nov. 9	Virginia
Nov. 18	at Maryland
Nov. 25	at Georgia

*BCA Classic

position players around him. "When Joe took over (in 1996)," said O'Leary, "the surrounding cast wasn't as good."

Even with the early departure of Dez White to the NFL (a second-round draft pick of Chicago), the Jackets return four receivers with significant game experience. Leading the way is Kelly Campbell, a junior speedster who set school single-season records last year with 69 receptions for 1,105 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Campbell's receiving yards ranked 12th nationally last year, although Campbell figures to be challenged this year, drawing the double coverage that normally went to White. Jon Muyres, a fifth-year senior, has the best hands on the team, and in the spring, beat out sophomore Kerry Watkins, who quit the team in mid-May.

Tech might have more bodies than it knows what to do with in the backfield. Tailback Joe Burns is back after missing most of last season following ankle surgery. Burns' injury made a star out of Sean Gregory, who began 1999 as the fourth-team tailback and ended up rushing for 837 yards, the highest total for a Tech back in four years.

Despite missing spring drills after his fourth knee surgery in three years, senior Ed Wilder returns as the ACC's most punishing fullback. Wilder should make life easier for the Jackets' posse of young, second-string tailbacks, which include Gordon Clinkscale, Sidney Ford and Mike Kitchen.

Tech's only trouble spot offensively could be up front, where the Jackets have to replace four starters, including tight end Conrad Andrzejewski. New offensive line coach Mac McWhorter inherited a group that includes a pair of mainstays in left tackle Chris Brown and right guard Brent Key, surrounded by several young, unproven blockers.

McWhorter purposely put Brown and Key on opposite sides of the line to keep the Jackets from having an imbalance of power. "I wanted to separate them to help out the young guys with calls, that kind of thing," said McWhorter, the former Georgia and Clemson assistant in his second stint with the Jackets.

Rounding out Tech's front five are left guard Clay Hartley, right tackle John Bennett and center David Schmidgall, none of whom has ever started.

Tight end Russell Matvay is a talented run-blocker who shouldn't expect too many passes thrown his way: Tech tight ends combined for only 12 catches in '99.

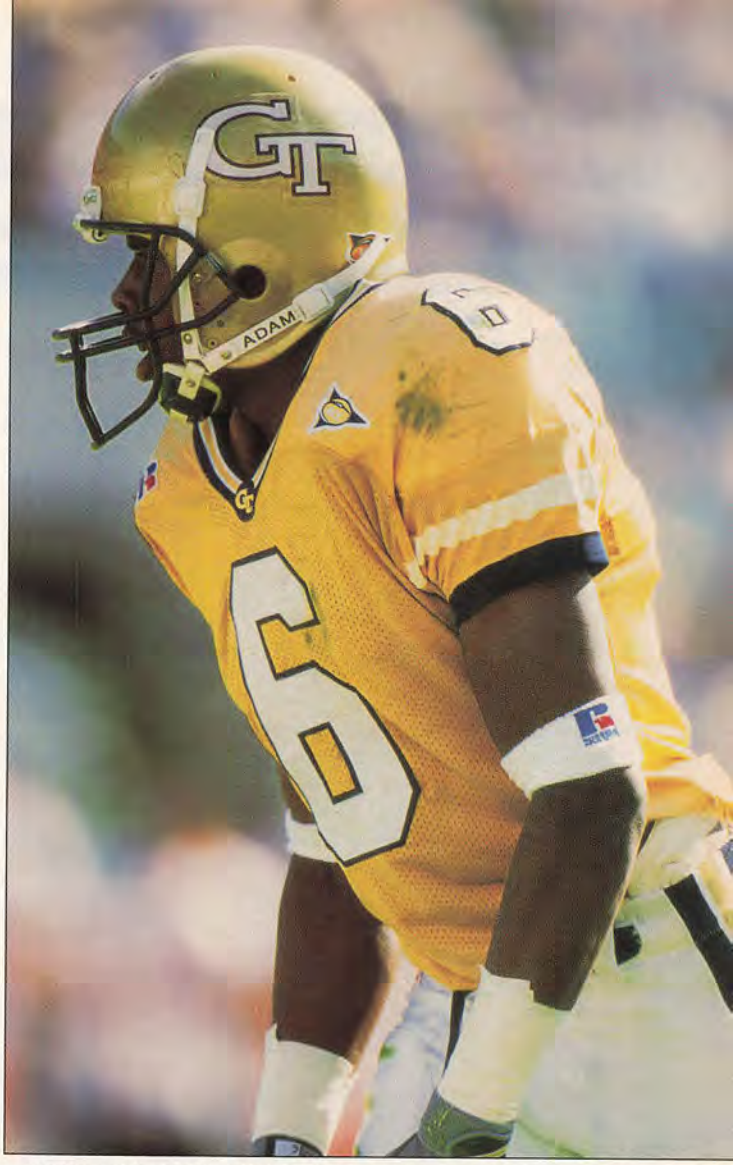
Defensively, it would appear that the Jackets have nowhere to go but up after ranking at or near the bottom nationally in several major defensive categories last year. Tech forced only 12 turnovers and finished with a turnover margin of -1.09, the worst figure among all 114 Division I-A schools.

Failing to come up with any giveaways, Tech's defense spent way too much time on the field last year, allowing 413.8 yards a game (100th nationally) and 30.3 points (93rd).

But defensive coordinator Ted Roof hopes stability will help his unit. The Jackets changed coordinators three times in three years, but Roof has done some tinkering in his second year in the position. After watching his defensive line get manhandled last year, Roof has added more interior stunts to his 4-3 scheme. The result: Tech's defensive players spent much of spring practice getting the better of their more-celebrated offensive counterparts.

"Our goal is to take up where our offense left off," strong safety Chris Young said. "I don't even know where our defense is ranked right now, but we've got to get up in that area. If the offense can't do it, we've got to do it. They can feel like they've got our help."

Young leads an experienced secondary that returns three of four starters. Young and free safety Jeremy Muyres are sound in both run support and pass coverage, but smallish cornerbacks



KELLY CAMPBELL SET SCHOOL SINGLE-SEASON RECORDS LAST YEAR WITH 69 RECEPTIONS FOR 1,105 YARDS AND 10 TOUCHDOWNS.

PHOTO BY SCOTT HALLERAN/ALLSPORT

Marvious Hester and Jamara Clark (both are shorter than 5-11) have a tendency to give up the big play.

Tech's defense suffered a big blow when middle linebacker Matt Uremovich learned that a chronic neck injury would prevent him from ever playing again. Even so, the Jackets should be OK at linebacker, where Matt Miller returns after missing all of '99 with a knee injury. Middle backer Recardo Wimbush was the first freshman ever to lead Tech in tackles with 91 takedowns, while redshirt freshman Ather Brown locked down the final starting spot with a solid spring. Arizona State transfer Cody Price and converted receiver Anthony Lawston also will see action.

The defensive line received most of Roof's attention in the spring. Defensive end Greg Gathers, a second-team Freshman All-American, moved to defensive tackle during passing downs to improve the rush. But the best move might have been the switch of Nick Rogers from outside linebacker to defensive end, where the 6-2, 250-pounder could be a disruptive force.

Tech coaches are hoping defensive end Felipe Claybrooks can regain his 1998 form, when he had a team-high 10 sacks before seeing that total dip to four last year. Defensive tackles Merrix Watson and Guenter Kryszon should benefit from Roof's more aggressive calls up front.

GEORGIA TECH

YELLOW JACKETS SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Class	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown
47	Brian Albanese	LB	Sr	5-11	196	Alpharetta
39	Shannon Ashmon	CB	Sr	5-10	194	Montezuma
4	Kelly Basinger	SE	So	6-1	171	Jacksonville, FL
8	Brett Basquin	SE	Sr	6-1	198	LaBelle, FL
79	John Bennett	T	Fr	6-5	290	Woodstock
66	Raymond Roberts-Blake	G	So	6-2	273	Walthourville
43	Ather Brown	LB	Fr	6-3	218	Macon
65	Chris Brown	T	Sr	6-6	315	Augusta
63	Tim Brown	G	So	6-2	284	Columbia, SC
17	Winfred Brown	CB	Fr	5-9	168	Marietta
42	Dan Burnett	RB	So	6-2	220	Lilburn
35	Joe Burns	TB	So	5-10	205	Thomasville
10	Brian Camp	QB	Fr	6-0	216	Dublin, OH
6	Kelly Campbell	FL	Jr	5-11	170	Atlanta
1	Jamara Clark	CB	Sr	5-8	170	Brandenton, FL
99	Ira Claxton	DE	Sr	6-5	255	Tallahassee, FL
97	Felipe Claybrooks	DE	Sr	6-4	255	Decatur
71	Beau Cleland	OL	So	6-3	230	Panama City, FL
28	Gordon Clinkscale	TB	So	5-10	179	Doraville
4	Cory Collins	FS	So	5-11	180	Egg Harbor T'ship, NJ
90	Bryan Corhen	DT	Sr	6-4	287	Albany
40	Kai Cornwell	PK	Sr	6-0	185	Newport News, VA
12	Jermaine Crenshaw	QB	So	6-1	203	Greenville, AL
30	Dan Dyke	P	So	5-11	185	Winter Springs, FL
94	Berwin Echols	DT	So	6-3	296	Atlanta
69	Matthew Etheridge	LB	Jr	6-0	209	Macon
2	Sidney Ford	TB	So	5-9	205	Lindale
20	Mike Garlow	RB	So	5-10	197	Austin, TX
55	Greg Gathers	DT	So	6-1	255	LaPlace, LA
3	Will Glover	FL	So	5-10	178	Tampa, FL
11	George Godsey	QB	Jr	6-2	209	Tampa, FL
77	Matt Graviet	C	Fr	6-2	265	Lewes, DE
32	Sean Gregory	TB	Jr	6-0	211	Homewood, IL
13	Andy Hall	QB	Fr	6-2	190	Cheraw, SC
57	Jamey Hamilton	DL	Fr	6-4	260	Powder Springs
69	Will Hardy	G	So	6-4	297	Conyers
46	Jason Harrison	LB	So	6-2	218	Lithonia
62	Clay Hartley	G	Fr	6-3	280	Bryceville, FL
36	Jermaine Hatch	FB	Fr	6-2	195	Baton Rouge, LA
84	Will Heller	TE	So	6-5	241	Dunwoody
64	Ashley Henderson	G	So	6-3	275	Valdosta
29	Marvious Hester	CB	So	5-11	166	Smyrna
1	Hal Higgins	P	So	5-11	175	Cornelia
49	Paul Hogg	FB	Sr	6-1	217	Atlanta
44	Kelvin Hughley	DE	So	6-2	245	Chattanooga, TN
86	Gary Johnson	FB	So	6-1	245	LaGrange
16	Michael Keith	QB	So	6-1	200	Stuttgart, AR
76	Jason Kemble	T	Jr	6-4	299	Canfield, OH
70	Brent Key	G	Sr	6-4	280	Trussvile, AL
34	Mike Kitchen	TB	Fr	5-9	200	Lebanon, PA
53	Chris Koncul	LB	Jr	6-2	198	Savannah
96	Guenter Kryszon	DT	Jr	6-4	280	Clark, NJ
20	Eric Lavette	SS	Fr	5-9	185	Powder Springs
52	Anthony Lawston	LB	Fr	6-3	204	Baltimore, MD
88	Brian Lee	TE	So	6-5	245	Florence, AL
87	Luke Manget	PK	So	5-9	176	Conyers
80	Russell Matvay	TE	Jr	6-4	245	Coram, NY
8	Richard McCabe	DB	So	6-3	190	St. Mary's
60	Brian Meager	T	Jr	6-5	275	Hatfield, PA
81	Roderick Middleton	SE	Fr	6-2	182	Bonneau, SC
48	Matt Miller	LB	Jr	6-4	245	Alpharetta
45	Ross Mitchell	LB	Jr	6-2	235	Grayson
95	Chris Morehouse	P	So	6-1	200	Vernon, CT
27	Jeremy Muyres	FS	So	6-3	205	Stone Mountain
7	Jon Muyres	FL	Sr	6-2	199	Stone Mountain
15	Phillip Newman	P	So	5-11	165	Marietta
21	Marty O'Leary	FS	Jr	5-11	180	Marietta
56	Cody Price	LB	Jr	6-2	230	Tempe, AZ
59	Hugh Reilly	C	Fr	6-4	280	Roswell
41	Kelley Rhino	CB	So	5-7	170	Smyrna
93	Tony Robinson	DT	Sr	6-4	293	Soperton
38	Nick Rogers	DE	Jr	6-2	250	East Point
61	David Schmidgall	C	Sr	6-2	275	Clearwater, FL
16	Selwyn Scott	CB	So	5-10	180	Boynton Beach, FL
23	Lee Tarpley	RB	So	6-1	199	Valdosta
53	Alex Tetterton	C	Sr	5-10	229	Lawrenceville
25	Troy Tolbert	CB	Sr	6-1	195	Augusta
72	Dustin Vaitekunas	T	So	6-7	314	Chapin, SC
98	Merrix Watson	DT	Jr	6-3	285	Mount Pleasant, SC
47	Ed Wilder	FB	Sr	6-2	255	Washington
42	Recardo Wimbush	LB	So	6-1	218	Blakely
58	Fred Wright	DE	So	6-4	250	Lehigh Acres, FL
33	Chris Young	SS	Jr	6-0	201	Senoia

Roster and depth chart subject to change.

2000 PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	George Godsey, Jr/Andy Hall, Fr
RB	Joe Burns, So*/Sean Gregory, Jr*
RB	Ed Wilder, Sr*/Gary Johnson, So
WR	Kelly Campbell, Jr*/Will Glover, So
WR	Jon Muyres, Sr/Roderick Middleton, Fr
TE	Russell Matvay, Jr/Will Heller, So
LT	Chris Brown, Sr*/Jason Kemble, Jr
LG	Clay Hartley, Fr/Raymond Roberts-Blake, Fr
C	David Schmidgall, Sr/Hugh Reilly, Fr
RG	Brent Key, Sr*/Ashley Henderson, So
RT	John Bennett, Fr/Dustin Vaitekunas, So
PK	Luke Manget, So*/Philip Newman, So

DEFENSE	
DE	Greg Gathers, So*/Felipe Claybrooks, Sr
DT	Merrix Watson, Jr*/Tony Robinson, Sr
DT	Guenter Kryszon, Jr*/Berwin Echols, So
DE	Nick Rogers, Jr/Kelvin Hughley, So
OLB	Ather Brown, Fr/Cody Price, Jr
ILB	Matt Miller, Jr*/Ross Mitchell, Jr
ILB	Recardo Wimbush, So*/Anthony Lawston, Fr
CB	Marvious Hester, So/Troy Tolbert, Sr
CB	Jamara Clark, Sr*/Selwyn Scott, So
SS	Chris Young, Jr*/Eric Lavette, Fr
FS	Jeremy Muyres, So*/Cory Collins, So
P	Dan Dyke, So*/Chris Morehouse, So

SPRING UPDATE

There was no position more closely analyzed at Georgia Tech last spring than quarterback, where the Yellow Jackets auditioned four players to succeed Joe Hamilton.

It turned out to be a two-horse race between redshirt junior George Godsey and redshirt freshman Andy Hall; and in the end, experience won out over youth. After refusing to name a starter all spring, Tech coach George O'Leary appointed Godsey as his No. 1 quarterback the day after spring drills ended.

"We have a lot of players staying here this summer to work out," O'Leary said. "And going into preseason, the kids need to know who the leaders are going into the huddle."

Godsey said he learned a lot the last two years while backing up Hamilton, the 1999 Heisman Trophy runner-up who left Tech with all of the school's passing and total offense records.

"Joe always talked about poise in the pocket," Godsey said. "People who played with Joe said he was the calmest person in the huddle when crunch time came."

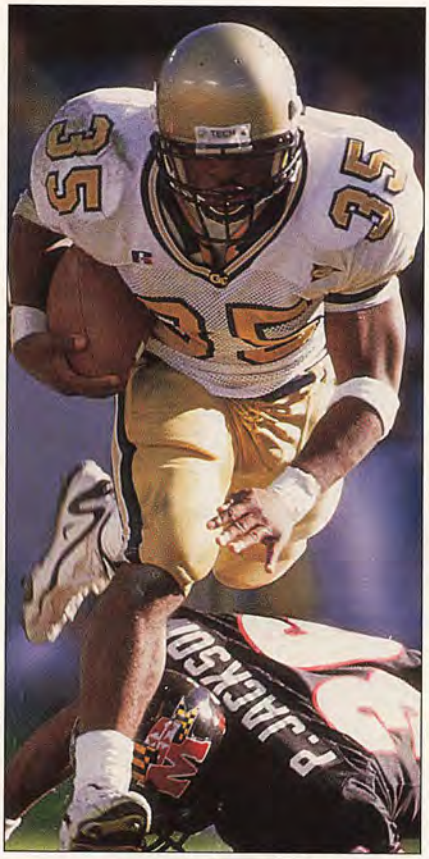
• Senior fullback Ed Wilder, a three-year starter, missed all of spring drills while recovering from his fourth knee surgery since his senior year in high school. Wilder had reconstructive surgery on the knee in high school, and has since had three arthroscopic procedures to clean up loose particles around the knee. He is expected to be 100 percent for the fall.

• Tech's season opener at Virginia Tech on Aug. 27 will be a reunion of sorts for Tech offensive coordinator Ralph Friedgen and Virginia Tech coach Frank Beamer. The two spent several years together on Bobby Ross' staff at The Citadel in the 1970s and remain close, buying property together at a Georgia golf community a few years ago.

• Sophomore tailback Joe Burns, recovering from ankle surgery last fall, was able to participate in 12 of the 15 practices.

• Two of the biggest surprises of the spring were linebackers Ather Brown and Anthony Lawston, a converted wide receiver. Brown took a starting job away from Arizona State transfer Cody Price, while Lawston earned a backup role despite having never before played linebacker.

— Joe Person



JOE BURNS RUSHED FOR 474 YARDS ON 98 CARRIES AS A FRESHMAN.

PHOTO BY DOUG PENSINGER/ALLSPORT

GEORGIA TECH

Burns Anxious to Get Back on the Field

Joe Burns had a routine he followed every Saturday last fall at his home in Thomasville. Regardless of what was going on in the small, south Georgia town, Burns would stop what he was doing and turn on the television for Georgia Tech's football game.

Nothing unusual about that, except that Burns had begun the fall as the Yellow Jackets' starting tailback.

But a broken ankle against Florida State ended Burns' sophomore season after only two games. "That was the first time in my life since the age of four not playing football," Burns said. "That made it depressing. It's been my routine for I don't know how many years."

Burns (5-10, 205), who received a medical redshirt last year, took it easy during spring practice but should be close to 100 percent in the fall. Jackets coach George O'Leary has a policy that prevents a player from losing his starting job due to injury. As a result, Burns is listed above Sean Gregory on the depth chart, despite Gregory's team-high 837 yards in Burns' absence.

"Joe's proven himself in the past as one of the kids we look to go to," Tech running backs coach Bill O'Brien said. "I think that's a good policy. You shouldn't lose your job because of an injury."

Burns rushed for 474 yards on 98 carries as a freshman, and started last season by tallying 116 yards of total offense and a touchdown in an opening-game win at Navy. But on his sixth carry the following week in Tallahassee, he was taken down hard by FSU rover Derrick Gibson on a toss sweep.

"I was just too high. I didn't have my pads down," recalled Burns, who also sustained cartilage damage in his knee on the play.

Burns, who had two screws placed in the bone to accelerate the healing, will be looking for Gibson when the Seminoles visit Atlanta in September. "I look forward to being in that situation again," he said. "I made sure I remember him. He's coming back, too."

Ultimately, that is Burns' goal, as well — to come back. ❑

"We've got to get the kids more active up front," O'Leary said. "I thought the front people were the ones that didn't make enough plays last year."

Tech's special teams appear to be in good shape. Placekicker Luke Manget hit 11 of 16 field goals, including two that either forced overtime or won the game. Manget set single-season marks among Tech kickers with 86 points and 53 PATs.

Punter Dan Dyke was one of Tech's best stories last year. Dyke came out for the team as an uninvited walkon and ended up winning a starting spot. His 43.8-yard average would have ranked second in the ACC had Tech's high-flying offense given him more chances to punt. And, oh by the way, Dyke is a first-team Academic All-American with a 4.0 GPA in electrical engineering.

Dyke could do a lot more punting this season without Hamilton around to keep the chains moving. There's just no way to replace a quarterback who accounted for more than 10,000 yards of total offense over the course of his career — something Godsey seems to realize.

"OUR GOAL IS TO TAKE UP WHERE OUR OFFENSE LEFT OFF. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE OUR DEFENSE IS RANKED RIGHT NOW, BUT WE'VE GOT TO GET UP IN THAT AREA."

"The quarterback has a lot on his shoulders, but there are 10 other players out there," he said. "If you can get the ball to the skilled position players, they'll make something happen."

The key will be getting it to them. Should Godsey stumble in that brutal, season-opening stretch, O'Leary will have a quarterback controversy on his hands for the first time since 1996, when Hamilton beat out Brandon Shaw for the job, but finished with a 5-6 record — Tech's last losing season.

O'Leary believes the talent is there for the Jackets to maintain their position behind Florida State in the ACC pecking order. The Jackets have finished second in the conference each of the last two years and appeared to be gaining ground on the Seminoles with Hamilton. After six straight lopsided defeats to FSU, Tech went nose-to-nose with the 'Noles in a 41-35 loss last year.

O'Leary doesn't see any reason for a dropoff.

"This team has to establish its own identity because they've got some good football players," he said. "You're losing one player, even as good as Joe was."

Added Young: "Everybody's looking for us to be bombed out this year, just not be good at all. We lost Joe Hamilton, so we just have to step up."

— Joseph Person

MARYLAND TERRAPINS

Terps Still Haunted by Last Minute of '99

It all came down to a few frozen seconds, seconds the Maryland football team desperately wanted to thaw.

Beating Virginia in the regular season finale would mean the difference between a 6-5 season and 5-6. The difference between a bowl bid and another season of oblivion.

As those frozen seconds held, Maryland needed somehow to keep the ball inbounds and run out the clock.

Don't think the entire Terrapin program can't still see the image of quarterback Randall Jones, trying to stay inbounds on a third down keeper with one minute, 22 seconds left, with Virginia devoid of timeouts and Maryland clutching to a three-point lead.

Jones couldn't stay inbounds. Why he was anywhere near the sideline is a question that haunts Maryland. Instead of Maryland being able to run out the clock, Virginia was able to force a punt, produce a 20-yard touchdown pass with time winding down, and stun the Terrapins with a 34-30 victory.

Virginia took Maryland's rightful place in the bowl pecking order. The memory derailed players and coaches for weeks.

It has also served as motivation that carried past spring and figures to endure well into the 2000 season.

"It was a very difficult thing to get over, to have that game replay in your mind," Maryland coach Ron Vanderlinden said. "For the first couple of weeks afterward, it was really difficult.

"But it also gives you an even greater sense of purpose as we get ready for the next season."

Losing to Virginia was a major factor in the offseason misery, but not the only factor. Much of the pain centered on the Terrapins' inability to close out a strong start.

After beginning the year 5-2, they needed just one win in their final four games to clinch a bowl appearance. The victory never materialized. Included in that stretch was a home loss to Duke and a game with North Carolina State that the Terrapins couldn't win on the road.

No wonder, then, that minutes after the Virginia game Maryland was so crushed. Simply keeping the ball inbounds would have put a collective vise grip on a season leaking away.

"Devastating," Vanderlinden said that day. "The worst loss I've ever been associated with because there was so much on the line."

With a new season approaching, the Terrapins will try to forget the feeling of attempting to turn the corner — only to hit a lamppost. Now it is time for an easier turn around that bend, with roadblocks held to a minimum.

If a steady and smooth path to a winning season is the preferred mode of travel, the Terrapins have predicated their hopes on the right kind of player.

That player is tailback LaMont Jordan. The senior should be one of the most prominent rushers in the nation. Jordan's 3,227 yards make him the NCAA's leading active rusher.

Jordan missed spring ball to concentrate on his grades, which had dropped during fall semester. Vanderlinden was far more concerned with maintaining Jordan's eligibility for the 2000 season than gambling Jordan could play spring ball and boost his academic performance.

"If there's one player who can afford to miss spring football, it's Lamont Jordan," Vanderlinden said.

Rarely has Maryland had an offensive force of Jordan's dimension. Not since Boomer Esiason played quarterback for the Bobby Ross teams of the early 1980s have the Terrapins possessed such an obvious single weapon.

One reason Jordan is a threat is his ability to present two kinds of running styles. He has enough speed to elude tacklers and race to the outside. And at 5-11, 216 pounds, Jordan has enough size to run over would-be tacklers who don't outsize him.

"A lot of people look at me and they

SENIOR LaMONT JORDAN SHOULD BE ONE OF THE MOST PROMINENT RUSHERS IN THE NATION.

PHOTO BY JEFF FISHBEIN

at a glance

TERRAPINS

1999: 5-6 Overall; 2-6 ACC (T/8th)

COACH: Ron Vanderlinden — At Maryland and Overall: 10-23, 3 years

RETURNING STARTERS: 15; 7 Offense, 6 Defense, Kicker, Punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH: RB Lamont Jordan, WR Jason Hatala, WR Moises Cruz, FB Matt Kalapinski, DB Tony Okanlawon, K Brian Kopka, LB Kevin Swift, DL Kris Jenkins

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: Jordan lets Maryland establish ball-control and keep defense well-rested. QB position should be far deeper than ever. Terrapins have experience in the secondary.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: Wide-open QB competition could mean that no player is an obvious answer. This needs to be the year Maryland shows it can pass. Rushing the passer is also an area where the Terrapins need to improve.

OVERVIEW: Terrapins could have their first winning record since Vanderlinden took over after the 1996 season. Terps should be more balanced on both sides of the ball. Jordan, a Heisman Trophy candidate, will be a story by himself.

TERRAPINS RECRUITING

Name / Position	Size	Hometown	High School / College
ABIAMIRI, Rob WR	6-3, 195	Randallstown	Mount St. Joseph
SuperPrep All-Mid-Atlantic Region ◆ All-State ◆ *Baltimore Sun* All-Metro ◆ As a senior, had 28 receptions for 779 yards and eight touchdowns ◆ Had two rushing touchdowns, two touchdowns on punt returns and one touchdown on kickoff return ◆ Member of basketball and track teams.			
BOYKIN, Cole DT	6-1, 265	Jersey City, NJ	Hudson Catholic
PrepStar All-Region ◆ *SuperPrep* All-Northeast Region ◆ All-Hudson County ◆ Had 85 tackles, eight tackles for loss and three quarterback sacks as a senior.			
BROOKS, C.J. OL	6-5, 290	Rex, GA	Morrow
Two-time honorable mention All-State ◆ Two-time All-Area ◆ As a senior, graded 84 percent on blocking assignments ◆ Member of basketball, track and wrestling teams.			
COCHRAN, Jamahl DE	6-0, 220	Morristown, NJ	Morristown
PrepStar All-Region ◆ All-State ◆ Two-time All-County ◆ Helped team to 11-0 record and third consecutive state championship ◆ Played offense and defense as a senior.			
CONDO, Jon RLB	6-3, 220	Philipsburg, PA	Philipsburg-Osceola
All-State ◆ Two-time All-Conference ◆ Played running back, linebacker and punter ◆ As a senior, had 1,000 yards rushing ◆ Had 100 tackles, 13 quarterback sacks and three interceptions ◆ Had 1,008 yards rushing and nine touchdowns as a junior ◆ Averaged 17 tackles per gamer.			
CUSTIS, Raymond ATH	5-8, 180	Germantown	Northwest
PrepStar All-American ◆ All-State ◆ County Offensive Player of the Year ◆ Had 1,500 yards rushing, averaging 9.2 yards per carry, and 25 touchdowns as a senior ◆ Eight touchdowns were 40 yards or longer ◆ Missed junior season with knee injury ◆ Starting point guard for basketball team.			
DOWNS, Chris TB	5-8, 190	Philadelphia, PA	Valley Forge Military Acad.
Two-year starter at Valley Forge Military Academy ◆ Had 2,013 career yards rushing and 23 touchdowns ◆ As a sophomore, had 925 yards rushing and 12 touchdowns on 87 carries ◆ *Philadelphia Daily News* prep League Player of the Decade ◆ Had league record 2,198 yards rushing as a prep senior.			
EARHART, Chris DT	6-4, 300	Beltsville	Montgomery College
Two-year starter ◆ Early season ankle injury in sophomore season ◆ Team Defensive Lineman of the Year as a freshman.			
ELI, Kevin RLB	6-4, 230	Deptford, NJ	Deptford
PrepStar All-American ◆ All-County ◆ All-South Jersey ◆ Three-year varsity player ◆ As a senior, had 72 tackles, including 19 tackles for loss, and 12 quarterback sacks ◆ Blocked one punt and one extra point attempt.			
FELDHEIM, C. J. DE	6-3, 235	Parkton	Hereford
Two-time All-State ◆ Three-year varsity starter ◆ Had 66 tackles, including 29 tackles for loss, and 14 quarterback sacks as a senior ◆ Had 792 yards rushing and 13 touchdowns on 77 carries.			
FLYNN, Ryan TE	6-4, 235	Youngstown, OH	Cardinal Mooney
Honorable mention All-State ◆ Two-time All-Conference ◆ All-Northeastern Ohio ◆ As a senior, started at tight end and defensive end ◆ Graded 86 percent on blocking assignments ◆ First baseman on baseball team.			
HAMILTON, Rovel DB	6-1, 180	Melbourne, FL	Eau Gallie
SuperPrep All-Region ◆ Third-team All-State ◆ All-Space Coast ◆ Had 45 tackles and two interceptions as a senior ◆ Had 600 yards passing and 500 yards rushing as quarterback ◆ Had 12 career interceptions.			

Name / Position	Size	Hometown	High School / College
HILL, Shaun QB	6-3, 225	Parsons, KS	Parsons-Hutchinson CC
NJCAA honorable mention All-American ◆ *SuperPrep* rated No. 5 junior college quarterback nationally ◆ Honorable mention All-Conference ◆ Two-year starter ◆ Had 1,688 yards passing as a sophomore.			
JERRY, Ken LB	6-2, 210	Melbourne, FL	Eau Gallie
All-Space Coast ◆ All-District ◆ Brevard County All-Star ◆ Played in North-South Florida All-Star game ◆ Team Most Valuable Player ◆ Three-year varsity starter ◆ As a senior, had 99 tackles, including 60 solo.			
KELLEY, Chris QB	6-2, 190	Germantown	Seneca Valley
USA Today Maryland Player of the Year ◆ *SuperPrep* All-American ◆ *PrepStar* ranked No. 1 quarterback in Atlantic Region ◆ Two-time All-State ◆ Led team to 26-0 record ◆ Had 1,645 yards passing and 29 touchdowns as a senior ◆ Had 1,278 yards rushing and 16 touchdowns ◆ Had 3,657 career yards passing.			
KEMP, Reggie OL	6-4, 300	Hyattsville	Northwestern
PrepStar All-American ◆ *SuperPrep* All-Mid-Atlantic Region ◆ Second-team All-State ◆ *Washington Post* second-team All-Met ◆ All-League ◆ As a senior, had 15 pancake blocks.			
LINTON, Chris LB	6-2, 210	Chesapeake, VA	Oscar Smith
All-District ◆ All-Eastern Region ◆ Three-year starter ◆ Team leading tackler ◆ Member of baseball team.			
LOMBARDO, Lou OL	6-6, 280	Baltimore	Calvert Hall College High
PrepStar All-Region ◆ Two-time All-State ◆ *Baltimore Sun* All-County ◆ Three-year starter ◆ Started 43 consecutive games ◆ Member of track team, competing in shot put and discus.			
LYNCH, James FB	5-11, 250	Washington, DC	Dunbar
USA Today honorable mention All-American ◆ *SuperPrep* and *PrepStar* All-Region ◆ Gatorade Washington, DC, Player of the Year ◆ *Washington Post* All-Met ◆ Helped team to back-to-back city championships.			
ROBERTS, Ike ATH	5-11, 175	Staten Island, NY	Tottenville
PrepStar All-Region ◆ Second-team All-State ◆ *New York Daily News* All-City ◆ Started every game for four years ◆ Set school career records for pass receptions (141), receiving yards (2,234), and touchdowns (27) ◆ Had 57 receptions for 827 yards and 10 touchdowns as a senior ◆ Member of track team.			
SCHMITT, Kyle OL	6-5, 275	Latrobe, PA	Derry Area Senior
PrepStar All-American ◆ *SuperPrep* All-Region ◆ *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* All-State ◆ Two-time All-Conference.			
SHANKS, Maurice WR	6-4, 175	Hampton, VA	Phoebus
SuperPrep All-American, rated No. 23 wide receiver nationally ◆ *PrepStar* ranked No. 1 wide receiver and No. 9 prospect overall in Atlantic Region ◆ Roanoke Times rated No. 4 prospect in Virginia.			
SUTER, Steve ATH	5-9, 175	Manchester	North Carroll
USA Today honorable mention All-American ◆ *PrepStar* All-Region ◆ All-State ◆ *Baltimore Sun* All-Metro ◆ Had 4,000 career yards rushing ◆ Had 1,748 yards rushing and 19 touchdowns as a senior.			
WILLIAMS, Curtis S	6-2, 190	Huntington Station, NY	Huntington
PrepStar All-Region ◆ All-State ◆ All-Long Island ◆ Three-year varsity player ◆ As a senior, had 2,186 all-purpose yards and 20 touchdowns ◆ Had 71 tackles, eight interceptions and 23 passes broken up.			
WILSON, Dennard CB	5-11, 188	Upper Marlboro	DeMatha
SuperPrep All-Mid-Atlantic Region ◆ Honorable mention All-State ◆ All-County ◆ Three-year varsity player ◆ Two-year starter ◆ Had 32 receptions for 481 yards and six touchdowns as a senior ◆ Team co-captain.			

A LOOK AT THE TERRAPINS

RESULTS

(5-6, 2-6)

6	Temple	0
51	Western Carolina	10
33	West Virginia	0
31	Georgia Tech	49
17	Wake Forest	14
30	Clemson	42
45	North Carolina	7
22	Duke	25
17	N.C. State	30
10	Florida State	49
30	Virginia	34

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING

Name	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int
McCall	179	93	1264	52.0	5	3
Evans	21	11	137	52.4	2	4

RUSHING

Name	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD
Jordan	266	1632	6.1	90	16
McCall	79	256	3.2	55	1
Perry	30	195	6.5	43	0
Kalapinski	34	157	4.6	28	3

RECEIVING

Name	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD
Gary	24	257	10.7	30	0
Jordan	19	208	11.0	70	1
Arrington	17	302	17.8	62	1
Waerig	14	181	12.9	26	1

DEFENSIVE LEADERS

Tackles: Moore 130; Thompson 111; Bishop 84; Littles 84.

Interceptions: Sanders 6; Forte 4; Littles 2.

QB Sacks: Cowsette 6; Lyght 6; Thompson 3.5; Moore 3.

Tackles For Loss: Thompson 17; Cowsette 11; Lyght 10.

SCHEDULE

Sept. 9	Temple
Sept. 16	at West Virginia
Sept. 23	Middle Tennessee
Sept. 28	Florida State
Oct. 7	at Virginia
Oct. 14	at Clemson
Oct. 21	Wake Forest
Oct. 28	at Duke
Nov. 4	N.C. State
Nov. 11	at North Carolina
Nov. 18	Georgia Tech

don't think I'll run somebody over," said Jordan, who came to Maryland from nearby Suitland (Md.) High. "That's been my style in high school and that's been my style in college. You just have to lower your shoulder sometimes and pick up those extra yards.

"You lower your shoulder on somebody one time and you keep lowering your shoulder on them and, eventually, they're going to give in," he said. "That's kind of what I'm thinking."

The Virginia game offered the best testament to Jordan's durability, heart and perseverance. It was an all-time performance for a running back — whether you're talking about a middle-of-the-pack Atlantic Coast Conference team or a dominant Big 10 program.

Jordan carried the ball 37 times. He gained 306 yards. He practically willed Maryland toward a win, a win snatched out of its collective hand in the final minute.

This year, Vanderlinden wants to move the Terrapins from a team dependent on a dominant rusher to one that can threaten with both the running and passing game.

Since Vanderlinden came to Maryland after the 1996 season after a stint as Northwestern's defensive coordinator, quarterback has been a widely unsettled position.

The Terrapins believe they finally are establishing some maturity there. But that doesn't mean there is an obvious choice to start this fall.

Three players are in the mix.

One is returning starter Calvin McCall, who started nine games as a redshirt freshman before injuring his knee. He recovered by mid-December and joined Maryland's basketball team as a walkon.

Maryland also will give strong consideration to Latrez Harrison, a true sophomore who did not get much chance last year to demonstrate his strong arm.

The unexpected factor in the equation is a junior college transfer, Shaun Hill. The 6-3, 229-pound Hill transferred from Hutchinson (Kan.) Community College.

McCall, who was able to participate in about two-thirds of spring football after the Maryland basketball team's loss in the second round of the NCAA tournament, envisions winning the job.

"Going into this fall, I can't be denied to play this year," McCall said.

However, Vanderlinden was not prepared to make an early commitment to any of three.

"I can say that it is too close to call," Vanderlinden said. "Latrez Harrison, Calvin McCall and Shaun Hill have all played well and gotten better. I feel as if we are better at this position than at any time since I've been here.

"Calvin McCall, for instance, is better right now than at any time last year. Basketball helped Calvin. He is a more assertive player, and he picked things up pretty quickly upon his arrival back to football. Mike Gundy, who moved over from the wide receiver unit to coach quarterbacks and coordinate the passing game, has done a good job bringing the quarterbacks along."

Gundy coaches three receivers, in particular, that should have an impact: Jason Hatala, Guilian Gary and Moises Cruz. At receiver, Maryland believes it might be five players deep when Scooter Monroe and Omar Cheeseboro are considered.

"We are better at the wide receiver position than at any time in my three years," Vanderlinden said. "I feel we have the depth, speed and size that we haven't had."

Where the depth might be a challenge for Maryland is on defense, especially at cornerback and on the defensive line.

Junior cornerback Lewis Sanders declared for the NFL draft last spring and became a fourth-round choice of the Cleveland Browns. With Sanders gone, Maryland is trying to bring along sophomore Curome Cox at the corner. But there is greater excitement about junior Tony Okanlawon.

Okanlawon has been an on- and off-starter for two seasons, starting his true freshman year. Vanderlinden said he "is playing better than any corner we've had. That is very encouraging."

The defensive line is something of a question. A year ago, Vanderlinden thought senior Kris Jenkins had an excellent spring, only to find his performance in 1999 to be subpar. Jenkins, a tackle, had another solid spring. That left Vanderlinden cautiously optimistic.

There also will be opportunity for junior Charles Hill to make an impact after a move to nose guard. A sleeper on the line could be defensive end Landon Jones.

At linebacker, Maryland probably is in better shape than most would have imagined after losing senior standouts Eric Barton and Kendall Ogle before last season.

Marlon Moore and Aaron Thompson give the Terrapins experience at linebacker. And Vanderlinden thinks there is real promise in two redshirt freshmen, Leroy Ambush and Leon Joe.

During the spring, Joe ran down the wide receiver Monroe on a reverse, an encouraging demonstration of speed.

Improvements on defense aside, a foundation for a winning record this year probably begins on offense.

By using Jordan to establish ball control and developing the quarterback position into a real weapon, the Terrapins can keep their defense fresher.

"We are so much farther ahead than we've ever been," Vanderlinden said. "At

CALVIN McCALL STARTED NINE GAMES AS A REDSHIRT FRESHMAN BEFORE INJURING HIS KNEE.

PHOTO BY TOMASSO DEROSA/TDSI

MARYLAND

TERRAPINS SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Class	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown
97	Tosin Abari	DE	Fr	6-0	236	Mt. Rainer
24	Leroy Ambush	LB	Fr	6-1	218	Frederick
16	Brooks Barnard	P	So	6-2	183	Arnold
24	Jason Bell	WR	So	5-10	173	Silver Spring
39	Kevin Bishop	LB	Jr	6-2	227	St. Petersburg, FL
17	James Blassingame	DB	Fr	5-9	177	Preston
73	Lamar Bryant	OL	Fr	6-3	274	Clinton
3	Omar Cheeseboro	WR	Sr	6-2	185	East Orange, NJ
81	Kevin Sollins	WR	Jr	6-3	209	Groose Pt City, MI
30	Curome Cox	CB	Fr	6-1	192	Arlington, VA
78	Matt Crawford	OT	So	6-6	290	Moravia, NY
86	Moises Cruz	WR	Jr	5-11	172	Germantown
19	Khary Darlington	S	So	5-11	193	Dover, DE
82	Jeff Dugan	TE	Fr	6-4	257	Allinson Park, PA
75	Eric Dumas	OT	Fr	6-6	288	Atlanta, GA
50	Nick Farver	LB	Fr	6-1	230	Westminster
44	Bernie Fiddler	FB	Fr	6-1	239	Swedesboro, NJ
13	Shawn Forte	FS	Sr	6-0	201	Poughkeepsie, NY
67	Melvin Fowler, Jr.	C	Jr	6-3	287	Wheatly Hghts, NY
21	Guilian Gary	WR	Jr	6-0	177	Horseheads, NY
39	Zach Glaser	PK	Fr	5-8	168	Niskayuna, NY
52	Monte Graves	LB	Jr	6-0	229	Annapolis
18	Gil Harris	QB	Jr	6-1	230	Virginia Beach, VA
4	Latrez Harrison	QB	So	6-3	222	Atlanta, GA
89	Jason Hatala	WR	Sr	5-10	174	Centreville, VA
42	E.J. Henderson	LB	So	6-2	229	Aberdeen
98	Charles Hill	DT	Jr	6-2	283	Palmer Park
14	Shaun Hill	QB	Jr	6-3	229	Parsons, KS
77	Tim Howard	OT	Sr	6-4	296	Leonardo, NJ
92	Mike Hull	TE	Sr	6-5	253	Hagerstown
65	Dolan Jablonski	OL	Fr	6-4	301	Edgewater
27	Tony Jackson	SS	Jr	6-1	210	Ellicott City
57	Kris Jenkins	DT	Sr	6-5	292	Ypsilanti, MI
32	Leon Joe	LB	Fr	6-1	212	Clinton
14	Cliff Johnson	SS	Fr	6-2	198	Forest Hill
99	Landon Jones	DE	Fr	6-4	251	Marion, OH
12	Randall Jones	FS	Jr	6-2	205	Frederick
15	LaMont Jordan	TB	Sr	5-11	210	Forestville
45	Matt Kalapinski	FB	Sr	6-1	224	Marshfield, MA
31	Chad Killian	FB	So	6-2	232	Pittsburgh, PA
29	Luke Kim	DB	So	5-9	195	Silver Spring
17	Brian Kopka	PK	Sr	5-7	174	Hollywood, FL
64	Bob Krantz	OG	So	6-5	283	Clifton, VA
11	Matt Langlie	QB	Jr	6-0	172	Kensington
23	Mark Lebida	WR/P	Sr	5-11	187	Edison, NJ
6	Erik Lipton	QB	Jr	6-3	206	Crofton
33	Rod Littles	SS	Jr	5-11	195	Gainesville, FL
54	Sam Marvis	C	So	6-3	265	Greensburg, PA
9	Calvin McCall	QB	So	6-3	189	Miami, FL
68	Brandon Miller	C	Fr	6-2	284	Olney
25	Scooter Monroe	WR	So	6-1	189	Abington
35	Marlon Moore	LB	Jr	6-1	221	Brandywine
83	Amiel Morris	WR	Jr	5-11	186	Glen Burnie
88	Matt Murphy	TE	Jr	6-5	250	New Haven, MI
11	Tony Okanlawon	CB	Jr	5-11	193	Forestville
84	Doug Patterson	WR	Sr	6-2	208	Shelby T'ship, MI
90	Jamar Perrin	DL	Fr	6-3	249	Temple Hills
7	Bruce Perry	RB	So	5-9	185	Philadelphia, PA
22	Derrell Poland	CB	Jr	6-1	175	Westville, NJ
2	Marc Riley	RB	Jr	6-3	220	Coram, NY
71	Durrand Roundtree	DL	So	6-3	242	Baltimore
87	Scott Rudolph	LS	Sr	6-4	244	Churchville
33	Zac Ryder	FB	Fr	5-11	208	Huntington Bch, CA
95	William Shime	DE	So	6-4	265	Ft. Washington
49	Mukala Sikyala, Jr.	TB	Sr	5-8	214	Lanham
14	Vedad Silijkovic	PK	Jr	6-2	204	Bronx, NY
23	Andrew Smith, Jr.	DB	Jr	6-0	196	Fort Meade
70	Scott Smith	DL	Fr	6-4	259	Philadelphia, PA
10	Sean Starner	P	Sr	5-11	185	Mechanicsburg, PA
29	Tyrone Stewart	FS	So	6-0	191	Washington, DC
48	Ryan Swift	LB	Jr	6-1	231	Hinsdale, IL
40	Aaron Thompson	LB	Jr	6-1	233	Baltimore
61	Ed Tyler	OL	Fr	6-3	276	Franklinville, NJ
55	Mike Whaley	DE	Fr	6-1	230	Lexington, SC
43	Daryl Whitmer	WR	Jr	6-0	188	Waldorf
66	Todd Wike	OG	So	6-3	282	Lebanon, PA
19	Jafar Williams	WR	Fr	6-2	184	Philadelphia, PA
76	Aaron Wormley	OL	Fr	6-5	268	Yeadon, PA

Roster and depth chart subject to change.

2000 PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Calvin McCall, So*/Latrez Harrison, So
RB	Lamont Jordan, Sr*/Mukala Sikyala, Jr
RB	Matt Kalapinski, Sr*/Chad Killian, So
WR	Jason Hatala, Sr*/Guilian Gary, Sr
WR	Omar Cheeseboro, Sr/Scooter Monroe, So
TE	Jeff Dugan, Fr/Mike Hull, Sr
LT	Tim Howard, Sr/Eric Dumas/Fr
LG	Todd Wike, So*/Ed Tyler/Fr
C	Melvin Folwer, Jr*/Sam Marvis, So
RG	Bob Krantz, So/Lamar Bryant, Fr
RT	Matt Crawford, So*/Aaron Wormley, Fr
PK	Brian Kopka, Sr*/Vedad Silijkovic, Jr

DEFENSE	
DT	Kris Jenkins, Sr*/Jamar Perrin, Fr
NT	Charles Hill, Jr/Durrand Roundtree, So
DE	William Shime, So/Landon Jones, Fr
RLB	Ryan Swift, Jr*/Mike Whaley, Fr
ILB	Kevin Bishop, Jr/E.J. Henderson, So
ILB	Marlon Moore, Jr*/Leon Joe, Fr
OLB	Aaron Thompson, Jr*/Leroy Ambush, Fr
CB	Curome Cox, Fr/Andrew Smith Jr., Fr
CB	Tony Okanlawon, Jr*/Luke Kim, So
SS	Rod Littles, Jr*/Tony Jackson, Jr
FS	Shawn Forte, Sr*/Randall Jones, Jr
P	Brooks Barnard, So/Sean Starnet, Sr

SPRING UPDATE

The Terrapins wanted to have a fairly clear idea of who would be their starting quarterback in 2000. With all the fanfare surrounding the arrival last fall of highly-touted recruit Latrez Harrison, the job seemed to be Harrison's to lose.

Harrison still is very much in the mix, but confusion has intensified because of the impression made by junior college transfer Shaun Hill.

After the spring scrimmage, coach Ron Vanderlinden did not make much of a distinction between three passers all aiming for the starting job — Harrison, Hill and Calvin McCall.

In the spring game, Hill completed 13 of 16 passes for 152 yards and one touchdown. Harrison completed seven of 10 for 96 yards, while McCall went seven of 12 for 129 yards.

"The quarterback position is better than at any time in my brief tenure. It is a very competitive position," Vanderlinden said. "I'm sure I will be asked who is No. 1, 2 and 3 ... I can say that it is too close to call."

• The absence of standout running back LaMont Jordan from spring drills kept Maryland's most visible player away, but the void presented an opportunity for backup tailback Bruce Perry. Perry was given a good deal of work between the tackles. He was able to prove his durability. He also showed some of the speed and hip movement that Vanderlinden likes. Jordan had an excused absence from spring ball so that he could concentrate on schoolwork and ensure that he improve some declining grades.

• Maryland will take any and all encouraging signs regarding its pass rush. The program really hasn't had a major pass-rushing presence in the Vanderlinden era. One positive indication was the play of linebacker Michael Whaley. The rush linebacker, a redshirt freshman, is two years removed from a high school career at Fork Union Military Academy that raised high expectations. "With Ryan Swift missing most of spring with an injury, Mike Whaley ran with the first unit. He is going to be a good player," Vanderlinden said.

— Mike Lurie

JASON HATALA IS ONE OF THE TEAM'S MOST TOUGH-MINDED PLAYERS.

PHOTO BY TOM HAUCK/ALLSPORT

MARYLAND

Hatala is a Blocking Machine

Maryland wide receiver Jason Hatala might have the best set of shoulders among the Terrapins' pass-catchers.

This isn't to say Hatala is all thumbs. It's just that he excels at downfield blocking.

In an offense revolving around running back LaMont Jordan and Jordan's ability to break into the secondary, a blocking receiver becomes especially valuable.

Hatala, a senior, does not have imposing physical dimensions. Maryland lists him at 5-10 and between 175 and 180 pounds.

Still, compacted into that frame is one of the team's most tough-minded players.

He won't shy away from the opportunity to catch passes, of course. But Hatala is happy with a more anonymous line of duty — dishing out a block in the defensive secondary that might help Jordan break open.

"I'm going to do anything in my power to help him," Hatala said.

Hatala came to Maryland from Centreville, Va. It was his home-state school, the University of Virginia, that poisoned Hatala's memory of last season. The Cavaliers got a last-minute victory over Maryland at Byrd Stadium in the season finale, denying Maryland a winning season and a bowl appearance.

As galling to Hatala was a loss to Duke, one of four straight defeats to end the season after a promising 5-2 start.

"The Duke game — it crushed me. Honestly, that crushed me," Hatala said. "We had two touchdowns called back. It was so disappointing. Then, I broke my finger and wasn't able to return until the Virginia game.

"That was very tough. Tough on all of us," Hatala said of how the season ended. "But it did motivate us like I've never been motivated."

Hatala has committed himself to making sure "that it will never happen again."

As fall approached, he had no idea who would be the starting quarterback to emerge from a competition between Calvin McCall, Latrez Harrison and junior college transfer Shaun Hill.

"I just hope one of those guys can get me the ball," Hatala said.

When they aren't, Hatala can exorcise frustrations from '99 by throwing some blocks downfield. ❑

quarterback, it's the first time we've had experience and depth — at the most crucial of all positions.

"We've played freshmen or redshirt freshmen in 15 of the last 17 games. That's a challenging thing to do... The main thing we have to improve on," he said, "is our ability to throw the ball."

The history of Maryland's quarterback problems were abundantly evident in that season finale against Virginia.

With McCall injured, Harrison started. But you could count on two hands the number of important snaps he'd taken during the season. His early problems helped Virginia establish a 17-point lead.

Thus, Maryland was forced to turn to Jones, who had been the starter at quarterback in 1998, but played defensive back for virtually all of last season.

With an eye toward that one play, when Jones couldn't stay inbounds to run down the clock, the Terrapins want to take more control of their own fortunes.

There is more experience. With that, there should be an edgier attitude.

THE CHANGE IN 2000, IDEALLY, WILL COME FROM MAKING A TRANSITION, INSTEAD OF MERELY TRYING TO AVOID MISTAKES.

Jordan said the program has hurt itself by just aiming for a bowl appearance.

"We're always taught," Jordan said, "when we're going to block, aim for the hip. Because you'll get the knee. If you aim for the knee, you'll get grass. Right now, we've been aiming for the knee and getting absolutely nothing but grass."

Maryland is not gunning for an unrealistic goal like a major bowl appearance. And even though Jordan said the team should enter the season expecting to win the ACC title, the presence of national champion Florida State in the league is a huge barrier.

Still, one or two substantial steps in the right direction could be enough to move Maryland forward — to a winning record, to a bowl game, to the kind of tangible progress that will make people take notice.

"I think we have taken the next step in the evolution of Maryland football," Vanderlinden said. "We established the line of scrimmage two years ago and became a force on the ground by leading the ACC in rushing and allowing an ACC-low 11 sacks. We still did not throw the ball effectively last year. We put a premium on protection to make sure we didn't do bad things with the football."

The change in 2000, ideally, will come from making a transition. Instead of merely trying to avoid mistakes, Maryland is ready to go on the offensive.

— Mike Lurie

NORTH CAROLINA TAR HEELS

Tar Heels Counting on a Healthy Curry

If nothing else, last season taught everyone at North Carolina that the old cliché of football being a game of inches is true.

Six inches made a major impact on two programs: N.C. State and UNC.

On Nov. 11, during a nationally-televised Thursday night game, UNC cornerback Errol Hood and safety David Bomar tackled Wolfpack wide receiver Chris Coleman six inches from the goal line on fourth down to preserve a 10-6 upset win for the Tar Heels.

"That six inches may have been the biggest play that's been around here in a long time, depending on where the future goes," said UNC coach Carl Torbush, who went from negotiating a buyout of his contract in the final week of the season to being reaffirmed as the man to lead Carolina football.

Those six inches certainly had a major impact on Wolfpack coach Mike O'Cain's life. The Wolfpack lost at East Carolina the next week and failed to earn a bowl bid. O'Cain was fired soon afterward.

Now O'Cain has moved down Interstate 40 35 miles to work for his old archrival. Torbush hired O'Cain as the Tar Heels' offensive coordinator and former N.C. State offensive line coach Robbie Caldwell to help resurrect a lifeless UNC offense.

"He's added a lot to our offense with the experience he has," Torbush said of O'Cain. "I've said it for the last 12 years, the offense that Mike O'Cain and his staff presented (at N.C. State) has been one of the toughest we've had to work against year after year.

"They have put their guys in a position week after week to have a chance to win."

It wasn't so long ago that UNC appeared to have a legitimate shot at winning a national championship.

The Tar Heels had two quarterbacks that could start for many teams and the best defense in school history in 1997. The defense ranked among the national leaders in all categories for two consecutive seasons.

As a result, UNC lost just three games in two years and finished in the Top 10 of the national polls in 1996 and '97.

Last year the bottom dropped out of Carolina football just as if someone had pulled a lever on a trap door. The low point came when the Tar Heels lost 28-3 to Division I-AA Furman during a miserable three-game stretch in which UNC failed to even compete.

The Tar Heels looked as if they had quit. The director of athletics, Dick Baddour, began to talk of possible changes when the season concluded, only days after giving Torbush a resounding vote of confidence.

The slide nearly cost Torbush his job after just two seasons as head coach. Torbush was negotiating a buyout of his contract during the final week of the season. A national wire service and all the local papers reported two days before the final game that Torbush would be fired at season's end.

But his players saved the day. Using a converted running back at quarterback, the Tar Heels bounced back to win their final two games to finish 3-8. They showed the spirit and competitive fire that appeared to be missing just weeks before.

And they proved that Torbush had not lost control of the team or the program. So at the last minute, Baddour called a press conference to announce his coach was still his coach. Since then, the program has undergone sweeping changes and the atmosphere surrounding UNC football has changed dramatically.

Carolina's problems began with its offense. It was ineffective for most of the

RONALD CURRY IS A TWO-SPORT ATHLETE, HAVING SIGNED TO PLAY POINT GUARD FOR THE BASKETBALL TEAM.

PHOTO BY STEVE BEYER

at a glance

TAR HEELS

1999: 3-8 Overall; 2-6 ACC (9th)

COACH: Carl Torbush — At UNC 11-13, 2 years; Overall: 14-21, 3 years

RETURNING STARTERS: 14, 4 Offense, 10 Defense

PLAYERS TO WATCH: LB Brandon Spoon, DE Julius Peppers, CB Errol Hood, S Billy-Dee Greenwood, QB Ronald Curry, TB Willie Parker, WR Bosley Allen

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: The secondary has plenty of depth this season and much more experience than a year ago. UNC is also well stocked at defensive end, led by freshman All-American Julius Peppers. Fifth-year linebacker Brandon Spoon leads a solid group of performers at that position. The defense should be a real asset for this team.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: If QB Ronald Curry cannot return to start from a torn Achilles' tendon suffered a year ago, the Tar Heels will be dreadfully inexperienced at quarterback. The talent at that position would be suspect as well. The kickers will be inexperienced, regardless of who eventually wins the job. And the depth at running back was non-existent in the spring.

OVERVIEW: A winning season, even at 6-5, would probably be an accomplishment for this team after last year's collapse. But the defense could also be good enough to help this club win seven or eight games. The offense, on the other hand, could struggle so much the Tar Heels finish with a second consecutive losing record. There are too many unknowns for even the coaches to predict what will happen with this team.

TAR HEELS RECRUITING

Name / Position	Size	Hometown	High School / College
BANKS, Jermicus DL	6-5, 235	Raleigh	Millbrook
All-State ◆ Conference Defensive Player of the Year ◆ As a senior, had 67 tackles, 14 tackles for loss and a school record 18 quarterback sacks ◆ Competed in track ◆ Academic All-Conference.			
BARTON, Justin OL	6-6, 290	Voorhees, NJ	Eastern Regional
USA Today honorable mention All-American ◆ *PrepStar* All-Region ◆ All-State ◆ All-South Jersey ◆ Had 33 pancake blocks as a senior ◆ All-Conference in basketball.			
BULLARD, Devllen LB	6-1, 215	Red Springs	Purnell-Swett
All-Conference ◆ All-County ◆ County Defensive Player of the Year ◆ As a senior, had 145 tackles ◆ Had 121 tackles and four quarterback sacks as a junior.			
CRAWFORD, Jason RB	6-2, 225	Forestville, MD	Parkdale
PrepStar All-American ◆ All-County ◆ All-Metro ◆ All-Star game Most Valuable Player, rushing 16 times for 175 yards and four touchdowns ◆ As a senior, had 1,310 yards rushing and scored 18 touchdowns ◆ Scored 14 two-point conversions ◆ Returned a kickoff 87 yards for a touchdown.			
DURANT, Darian QB	6-1, 215	Florence, SC	Wilson
USA Today honorable mention All-American ◆ *SuperPrep* All-American ◆ Helped team to state semifinals ◆ Broke bone in left leg during senior season ◆ Completed 172 of 292 passes in eight games ◆ Had 2,446 yards passing and 25 touchdowns ◆ Had 7,241 career passing yards and 69 touchdowns.			
FERGUSON, Blake P/PK	6-0, 170	Broken Arrow, OK	Bixby
All-State punter ◆ All-Metro punter ◆ Second-team All-State placekicker ◆ All-District at both positions ◆ As a senior, made eight field goals, including from 57 yards and 51 yards ◆ Averaged 42 yards per punt ◆ Had 23 receptions for 350 yards and three touchdowns ◆ Had 27 tackles, two interceptions and one fumble caused.			
GADDY, Clarence DL/LB	6-4, 210	Bunn Level	Western Harnett
SuperPrep All-American and Mid-Atlantic Defensive Player of the Year ◆ Gatorade North Carolina Player of the Year ◆ All-State ◆ Had 92 tackles, including 59 solo, and 19.5 tackles for loss, and 13.5 quarterback sacks as a senior.			
HEDGECOCK, Madison ATH	6-3, 235	Kernersville	Ledford
USA Today honorable mention All-American ◆ *SuperPrep* All-American ◆ *PrepStar* All-Region ◆ As a senior, had 1,799 yards rushing and 17 touchdowns ◆ Had 3,673 career yards rushing and 44 touchdowns.			
JESSUP, Lawrence DL	6-6, 230	Miami, FL	Miami Country Day
Played one year of high school football ◆ All-Conference ◆ Had 85 tackles and 17 quarterback sacks as a senior ◆ Member of basketball team, averaging 10 rebounds per game.			
JONES, Kitwana LB	6-0, 220	Wilmington	Fork Union Military Acad.
As a sophomore, had 350 yards rushing on 38 carries ◆ Had four receptions for 120 yards ◆ Scored six touchdowns ◆ Had 10 quarterback sacks and two interceptions ◆ Two-time prep All-Conference ◆ Team Defensive Most Valuable Player ◆ Played in North Carolina East-West All-Star game.			

Name / Position	Size	Hometown	High School / College
LEAK, Aaron QB	6-3, 215	Durham	Riverside
USA Today honorable mention All-American ◆ Two-time All-Area ◆ Led team to second place conference finish ◆ As a senior, completed 80 of 176 passes for 1,593 yards and 23 touchdowns ◆ Rushed for seven touchdowns ◆ Had 1,300 yards passing as a junior.			
LEWIS, JoVon DB	6-1, 175	Greensboro	Ragsdale
All-Conference ◆ Conference Defensive Most Valuable Player ◆ Had 946 yards rushing and eight touchdowns as a senior ◆ Had seven receptions for 145 yards and two touchdowns ◆ Had 127 tackles, three interceptions and three fumbles recovered ◆ Ranked No. 5 in North Carolina in the 300-meter hurdles.			
MACKLIN, Bryant DB	6-0, 195	Elm City	Fike
Two-team All-Conference ◆ Team Most Valuable Player ◆ As senior tailback, had 1,025 yards rushing and 12 touchdowns ◆ Had 350 yards receiving and four touchdowns ◆ Had 500 yards rushing as a junior ◆ Member of indoor and outdoor track teams.			
McNEILL, Willie OL	6-5, 280	Wagram	Scotland County
Two-time All-Conference ◆ Participated in Shrine Bowl ◆ Helped team to third place conference finish ◆ Member of track team, competing in shot and discus.			
MONTGOMERY, Isaac DL	6-5, 285	Princeton, WV	Princeton Senior
USA Today honorable mention All-American ◆ Second-team All-State ◆ All-Area ◆ All-Conference ◆ Played offensive tackle and fullback ◆ As a senior, averaged seven tackles per game ◆ Scored five short-yardage touchdowns.			
RUSSELL, Brandon RB	5-11, 185	Atlanta, GA	Marist
USA Today honorable mention All-American ◆ *PrepStar* All-American ◆ All-State ◆ Atlanta Offensive Player of the Year ◆ Had 1,697 yards rushing, averaging 9.98 yards per carry, and 29 touchdowns as a senior ◆ Had 3,207 yards rushing and 52 touchdowns in three-year career ◆ Had school-record game of 303-yard rushing game ◆ Had five career touchdown receptions ◆ Blocked eight kicks on special teams ◆ Hit .380 for baseball team ◆ Selected by Florida Marlins for the Major League Baseball Showcase in summer of 1999.			
SEAGRAVES, Skip OL	6-5, 250	Burlington	Williams
USA Today honorable mention All-American ◆ All-State ◆ Two-time All-Conference ◆ Two-time All-Region ◆ Played in Shrine Bowl ◆ Helped team to state championship as a senior.			
SEAWRIGHT, Jonas DL	6-6, 290	Orangeburg, SC	Orangeburg Wilkinson
All-State ◆ All-Area ◆ Defensive captain for South team in South Carolina All-Star game ◆ As a senior, had 155 tackles, including 70 solo, 22 tackles for loss and 11 quarterback sacks ◆ Had 140 tackles and four quarterback sacks as a junior.			
WILLIAMS, Andreí RB	6-0, 215	Durham	Northern
USA Today honorable mention All-American ◆ *SuperPrep* All-American ◆ *PrepStar* All-Region ◆ Two-time Conference Offensive Back of the Year ◆ Helped team to 11-1 record and second round of state playoffs ◆ Had school record 2,146 yards rushing and 36 touchdowns as a senior ◆ Averaged 8.1 yards per carry ◆ Had school record 5,328 career yards rushing and 74 touchdowns.			

A LOOK AT THE TAR HEELS

RESULTS

(3-8, 2-6)

17	Virginia	20
42	Indiana	30
10	Florida State	42
20	Clemson	31
24	Georgia Tech	31
12	Houston	20
7	Maryland	45
3	Furman	28
3	Wake Forest	19
10	N.C. State	6
38	Duke	0

INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING

Name	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int
Curry	110	54	682	49.1	3	10
Williams	47	21	352	44.7	2	0

RUSHING

Name	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD
Davis	69	303	4.4	38	2
Saunders	75	297	4.0	25	1
Brown	74	275	3.7	26	1
Dyer	73	233	3.2	14	2

RECEIVING

Name	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD
Bailey	25	418	16.7	45	2
Peace	23	373	16.2	32	1
Crumpler	20	191	9.6	34	0
Harris	12	184	15.3	42	0

DEFENSIVE LEADERS

Tackles: Greenwood 118; Perry 83; Hodge 79; Savage 71.
Interceptions: Hood 5; Black 2; Hodge 1; Bomar 1; Burgess 1.
QB Sacks: Peppers 6; Evans 3; Monk 2; Peace 2; McAllister 2.
Tackles For Loss: Peppers 10; Hodge 7; Sims 6; Evans 5.

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2	Tulsa
Sept. 9	at Wake Forest
Sept. 16	at Florida State
Sept. 23	Marshall
Sept. 30	Georgia Tech
Oct. 14	N.C. State
Oct. 21	Clemson
Oct. 28	at Virginia
Nov. 4	at Pittsburgh
Nov. 11	Maryland
Nov. 18	at Duke

last two seasons. When Torbush retained his job, he knew some sweeping changes were necessary, so he fired three offensive coaches, including offensive coordinator Steve Marshall.

Torbush offered the job to O'Cain.

Now, all of a sudden, the Tar Heels have added one of the most respected offensive minds in the Atlantic Coast Conference to go with a proven defensive staff.

"Mike O'Cain, what you see is what you get," Torbush said. "He's not only an outstanding football coach, he's an outstanding person. He's the same way behind closed doors as he is in front of the doors."

Caldwell should help to improve the offensive line, which has been a weak link for the past few years.

The changes do not end all of Carolina's problems, but bringing O'Cain and Caldwell aboard has added credibility to an offensive staff that lacked it for two years with Marshall at the helm.

In all fairness, though, it didn't really matter who was coaching at season's end a year ago because of injuries. Adding to that, the Tar Heels' running game had been non-existent for two years, with a weak offensive line and slow tailbacks.

The situation grew much worse when star quarterback Ronald Curry tore his Achilles' tendon in the fifth game last fall. That is when the offense disappeared altogether and the team began to come apart at the seams.

Backup Luke Huard was ineffective and injured for the rest of the season, and UNC had to rely on converted defensive back Antwon Black at first. Later UNC turned to converted running back Domonique Williams at quarterback.

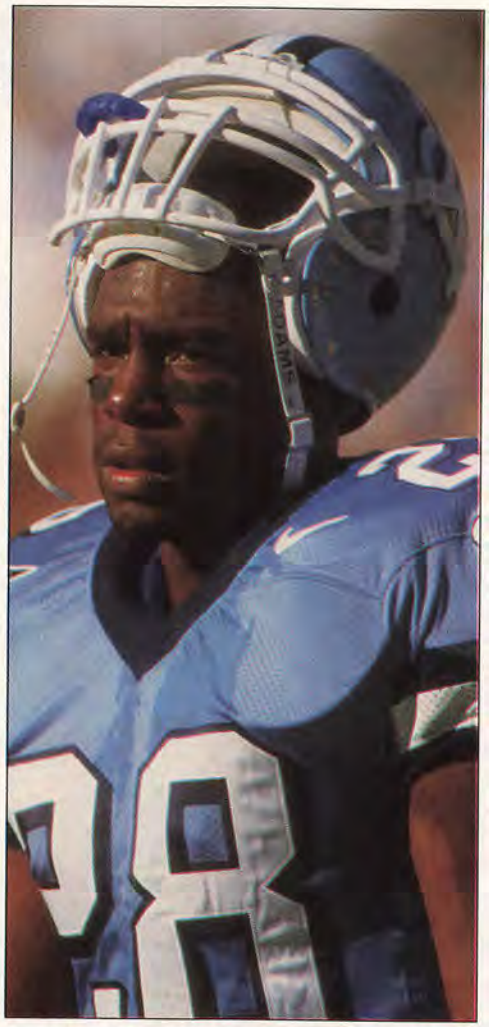
Both were former high school quarterbacks.

What happened with Black typified the Tar Heels' misfortunes. Just as Black started to show some promise at the position, he contracted a virus and missed the final four games of the season.

That's when Williams moved to QB. Remarkably, Williams regenerated a lifeless offense and led the Tar Heels to two wins to finish the season. The final victory was a 30-0 number over Duke, a win that literally swept Torbush back into his job just as he appeared on his way out.

The atmosphere around the program may have improved, but the Tar Heels are not without their troubles.

Williams and tailback Daniel Davis were both suspended from the team in the offseason. Their status remains in doubt heading into summer camp.



BILLY-DEE GREENWOOD WILL BE COUNTED ON TO PROVIDE IMPROVED DEFENSIVE BACKFIELD PLAY.

PHOTO BY STEVE BEYER

Williams, for the second time in his career, had problems academically.

Davis had some academic troubles as well, but his biggest failings came off the field. He received a traffic ticket and rather than comply with the terms of the court, let the situation snowball to the point that he was jailed back in his home state of Virginia.

He had been the No. 1 player in the state of Virginia as a high school senior the previous season. He played as a true freshman early last season, but sprained an ankle and missed several games through the middle portion of the schedule.

When he returned to the Carolina lineup from the sprained ankle, he helped turn the Tar Heels' rushing attack around in the final two games.

Davis has great speed and natural ability, but unless he can comply with all of Torbush's demands, Davis will not be a member of the team this fall.

Davis' loss is redshirt freshman Willie Parker's opportunity. Parker was the only real candidate at tailback during the spring. He made the most of his chance.

"He did fantastic," O'Cain said. "He's had a really good spring. If you had to pick one player who had the best spring off our offense, it was Willie."

But if Davis fails to return this fall, the Tar Heels will have to rely on one of three incoming freshmen for depth at the position. This is certainly a recipe for disaster, given the physical nature of the game and position and Carolina's lack of success last year.

Jason Crawford (6-2, 215 pounds) of Maryland, Brandon Russell (5-11, 180) of Atlanta and Andre' Williams (6-0, 215) of Durham, N.C. all signed as running backs in February.

But O'Cain said that if Carolina must rely on a freshman, it's good that it will come at running back.

"If there is one position you can play and play quickly," O'Cain said, "it's at tailback. The running game, a good tailback is a good tailback. Once you get him pointed in the right direction, the good Lord takes over."

The greatest uncertainty, though, is Curry. Torbush said that he believes Curry was about a month ahead of schedule in his recovery in April. Curry threw the ball some in practice, but did not participate in any drills.

Curry is a two-sport athlete, having signed to play point guard for the basketball team as well. He redshirted in basketball last season because of his injury. The basketball team needs a point guard with Ed Cota having exhausted his eligibility.

Curry said that he wants to play quarterback, and he is looking forward to throwing to wide receiver Bosley Allen, who missed last season while recovering from a serious knee injury.

But Curry has also said that if he doesn't feel 100 percent when its time for the opening game against Tulsa Sept. 2, he will sit out the football season as a redshirt and concentrate on basketball.

"I would like to feel like we can be successful regardless," Torbush said, "but there is no question in my mind we'll be more successful in being able to get the things done on a national level and be able to move up another step if Ronald Curry is full speed and is our quarterback."

Black remained at QB after recovering from his virus. He rotated with Huard and converted linebacker Richard Moore at quarterback in the spring. The Tar Heels

NORTH CAROLINA

TAR HEELS SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Class	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown
88	Sam Aiken	WR	So	6-2	190	Kenansville
45	Ian Alexander	LB	Fr	6-4	220	Pittsburgh, PA
3	Bosley Allen	WR	So	6-1	190	Bradenton, FL
11	Anthony Anderson	CB	Jr	5-9	180	Thomasville
38	Emeka Asika	DB	Jr	5-9	190	Stone Mountain, GA
12	Kory Bailey	WR	Jr	6-1	190	Durham
56	Jeremy Barnes	DL	So	6-2	270	Rockingham
62	Jason Beamon	DS	Sr	6-2	280	Walstonburg
95	Chris Bender	PK	Sr	6-0	180	Durham
16	Bill Bigham	QB	Sr	6-3	200	Shorewood, WI
14	Antwon Black	QB	Sr	5-11	190	Central, SC
53	Palmer Blair	DS	Sr	5-11	220	Summerfield
23	Richard Bohart	WR	Jr	5-11	190	Charlotte
42	David Bomar	S	Sr	5-11	190	Durham
7	J.P. Bomar	S	Jr	6-0	190	Durham
39	Chesley Borders	WR	So	6-0	180	Shelby
77	Jason Bradley	OL	So	6-2	325	Sylva
20	Ronald Brewer	DB	So	5-6	155	Chesapeake, VA
4	Benjamin Brousseau	QB	So	6-5	205	Dallas, TX
81	Doug Brown	TE	Jr	6-4	245	Winston-Salem
7	Rufus Brown	TB	Jr	6-1	220	Belzoni, MS
13	Justin Browne	CB	Fr	5-9	175	Arlington, TX
91	Will Chapman	DE	So	6-4	255	Lexington, KY
94	Donti Coats	DT	Fr	6-3	290	Chesapeake, VA
25	DeFonte Coleman	S	So	6-1	215	Kinston
5	Jonathan Cork	PK	So	6-0	155	Charlotte
82	Alge Crumpler	TE	Sr	6-3	260	Wilmington
1	Ronald Curry	QB	Jr	6-2	200	Hampton, VA
6	Danny Davis	WR	Jr	6-0	190	Manteo
47	Eric Davis	DE	So	6-3	260	Rockingham
95	Joey Evans	DE	Jr	6-5	265	Fayetteville
47	James Faison	FB	So	6-0	220	Clinton
51	Riko Feemster	OT	Fr	6-5	315	Grover
83	Dauntae' Finger	TE/FB	Sr	6-3	265	Newton
10	Pat Fox	FB	Jr	5-11	220	Hardin, MT
35	Conrad Graham	PK	So	6-0	171	Winston-Salem
96	Darryl Grant	DT	Fr	6-2	270	Chesapeake, VA
28	Billy-Dee Greenwood	S	Jr	6-2	185	Norwalk, CT
6	Eddie Harrell	DB	So	5-8	180	Loraine, OH
36	Michael Harris	TB	So	5-10	200	Rougemont
55	Robert Harris	LB	So	6-1	225	Raleigh
72	Jason Helton	DS	Sr	6-0	230	Stanley
86	Zach Hilton	TE	So	6-6	255	Silver Spring, MD
52	Sedrick Hodge	LB	Sr	6-4	235	Atlanta, GA
27	Adam Holland	DB	So	6-0	180	Asheboro
66	Cam Holland	C	Sr	6-2	305	Franklin
29	Errol Hood	CB	Jr	5-11	195	Lenoir
9	Luke Huard	QB	So	6-4	220	Puyallup, WA
34	Derrick Johnson	CB	Fr	5-8	165	U. Marlboro, MD
8	Jamal Jones	WR	Fr	5-11	200	Washington, DC
40	Marcus Jones	S	So	6-2	205	Lufkin, TX
21	Kevin Knight	CB	So	5-8	175	Suffolk, VA
53	Chris Kocaj	OT	Fr	6-4	305	North Bergen, NJ
21	John Lafferty	P	So	5-10	180	Icard
74	Bryant Malloy	OT	So	6-3	310	Cherryville
70	Louis Marchetti	OT	Sr	6-6	280	Nashville, TN
68	Ross McAllister	DE	Sr	6-5	255	Dunwoody, GA
13	Scott McBride	QB	Jr	6-1	195	Morehead City
31	David McIntosh	DB	So	5-11	180	Brentwood, TN
93	Stephon McQueen	DE	Sr	6-4	255	Raleigh
84	Steven McFarland	WR	Jr	6-1	200	Mooresville
91	Darren McPhail	TE	So	6-5	220	Elizabethtown
60	Adam Metts	C	Jr	6-0	270	Burlington
41	Quincy Monk	LB	Jr	6-4	240	Jacksonville
43	Richard Moore	LB/QB	So	6-2	235	Memphis, TN
92	Issac Mooring	DL	Fr	6-2	260	Tarboro
78	Isaac Morford	OL	So	6-3	300	Melrose, FL
65	Frank Palmeri	DT	Jr	6-3	300	Asheville
63	Don Peters	OG	So	6-2	305	Mattawan, MI
15	Willie Parker	TB	Fr	5-10	200	Clinton
49	Julius Peppers	DE	So	6-6	270	Bailey
58	Anthony Perkins	DT	Jr	6-5	260	Holly Springs
54	Merceda Perry	LB	Sr	6-4	245	Asheboro
19	Jonathan Phillips	DB	So	5-11	185	Pittsboro
97	Willie Quick	DT	Jr	6-3	280	Rockingham
92	Jeff Reed	PK	Sr	6-0	200	Charlotte
24	Dexter Reid	CB	Fr	5-11	180	Norfolk, VA
4	Clay Roberson	LB	Fr	6-1	230	Bethel
10	Isaiah Robinson	WR	Fr	6-0	190	Reidsville
32	Ronnie Robinson	FB	Sr	6-1	245	Atlanta
65	Alex Rozek	OL	Sr	6-6	285	Washington, DC
20	Anthony Saunders	RB	Jr	6-1	225	Greensboro
26	Quinton Savage	S	Sr	5-11	195	Denver, CO
17	David Scott	CB	Fr	5-10	165	Homestead, FL
87	Ryan Sims	DT	Jr	6-4	295	Spartanburg, SC
17	Bryan Smouse	QB	So	6-0	205	Greensboro
44	Brandon Spoon	LB	Sr	6-2	245	Burlington
79	David Stevenson	OG	Fr	6-3	315	Dale City, VA
8	Josh Stewart	PK	So	5-10	160	Lillington
85	Malcolm Stewart	DE	So	6-3	225	Goldsboro
16	Nathan Sutton	S	Jr	5-10	190	Waynesville
77	Jeb Terry	DT	So	6-5	280	Dallas, TX
30	David Thornton	S	Sr	6-2	210	Goldsboro
27	Donte' Thorogood	TB	Sr	5-7	175	Greenville
18	Michael Waddell	CB	So	5-11	170	Ellerbe
73	James Wagstaff	OT	Sr	6-3	360	Charlotte
2	Brent White	P	Jr	5-10	170	Durham
71	Jupiter Wilson	OT	Fr	6-2	300	Chesapeake, VA
67	Marcus Wilson	OG	Fr	6-2	270	Jackson, MS
18	Allen Williams	QB	So	5-11	180	Greensboro
51	Sean Williams	LB	Jr	6-1	215	Fayetteville
62	Jake Wiltshire	DS	Jr	5-10	205	Asheville
69	Greg Woofter	OT	Fr	6-5	265	Oliver Springs, TN

Roster and depth chart subject to change.

2000 PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Ronald Curry, Jr*/Antwan Black, Sr
TB	Willie Parker, Fr/Donte Thorogood, Sr
FB	Anthony Saunders, Jr*/Ronnie Robinson, Sr
WR	Kory Bailey, Jr*/Danny Davis, Jr
WR	Bosley Allen, So/Sam Aiken, So
TE	Alge Crumpler, Sr*/Dauntae' Finger, Sr
LT	Louis Marchetti, Sr/Greg Woofter, Fr
LG	Cam Holland, Sr/Jupiter Wilson, Fr
C	Adam Metts, Jr/Marcus Wilson, Fr
RG	Isaac Morford, So/Don Peters, So
RT	James Wagstaff, Sr/Bryant Malloy, So
PK	Jeff Reed, Sr

DEFENSE	
DE	Julius Peppers, So*/Malcolm Stewart, So
DT	Ryan Sims, Jr*/Eric Davis, So
DT	Anthony Perkins, Jr*/Willie Quick, Jr
DE	Ross McAllister, Sr*/Joey Evnas, Jr
LB	Sedrick Hodge, Sr*/Quincy Monk, Jr
LB	Brandon Spoon, Sr*/Robert Harris, So
LB	Merceda Perry, Sr*/David Thornton, Sr
CB	Michael Waddell, So/David Scott, Fr
CB	Errol Hood, Jr*/Kevin Knight, So
FS	David Bomar, Sr*/Dexter Reid, Fr
SS	Billy-Dee Greenwood, Jr*/DeFonte Coleman, So
P	Blake Ferguson, Fr

SPRING UPDATE

The best news to come out of North Carolina's spring drills was that no one sustained a serious injury.

Injuries have crippled this team at times over the past two years. A year ago, the Tar Heels lost their leader on offense (QB Ronald Curry) and defense (LB Brandon Spoon) to season-ending injuries. They played all of last season without Bosley Allen, their fastest receiver, after Allen tore ligaments in a knee in the final game of the 1998 regular season.

The biggest problem this spring had to do with old hurts. Curry was still recovering from a torn Achilles' tendon that cut his previous season short. He could not participate in drills, although he did come out toward the end of practice and throw the ball some.

This could be a real setback for the fall since the Tar Heels have a new offensive coordinator (Mike O'Cain) and a new offensive system.

Curry did participate in some of the classroom work connected to spring practice.

"He probably put in six to seven good work days as far as the mental frame," Coach Carl Torbush said. "He's also been on the field and thrown for at least five days. We have a very intensive trainer's check that deals with agility, quickness, speed, movement, flexibility.

"(In the spring), Ronald was between 87 and 92 percent. He is fairly close to being full speed."

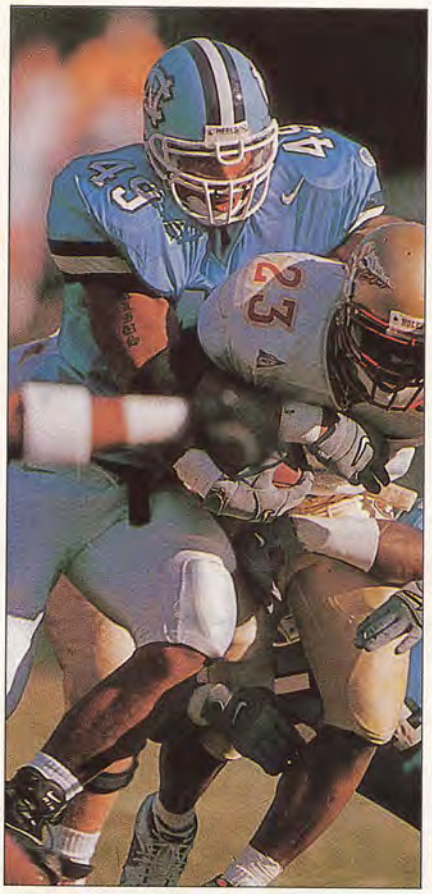
The Tar Heels were not able to identify their new kickers this spring, which could be a real problem early. UNC lost its placekicker, punter and kickoff specialist from a year ago.

Torbush will be counting on incoming freshman Blake Ferguson and probably a walkon or two to win those jobs in August camp.

Spring did benefit Spoon and Allen because they were able to participate in contact drills for the first time since returning from their injuries. That should help both of them be far more ready when summer camp arrives.

The Tar Heels need both to be healthy and make contributions for this team to succeed.

— Eddy Landreth



JULIUS PEPPERS (6-6, 270 POUNDS) EARNED THE STATUS OF FRESHMAN ALL-AMERICAN IN HIS FIRST YEAR AS A TAR HEEL DEFENSIVE END.

PHOTO BY SCOTT HALLERAN/ALLSPORT

NORTH CAROLINA

Peppers is UNC's Man For All Seasons

Julius Peppers came to UNC from Bailey, N.C., rated not only as the top football prospect in the state, but the best athlete in North Carolina.

Now everyone knows why.

"When he walks on the court," UNC basketball player Jason Capel said, "you know he's there. He's definitely a presence, definitely a big body.

"Just look at him. He's enough to intimidate anybody."

Peppers (6-6, 270 pounds) earned the status of Freshman All-American in his first year as a Tar Heel defensive end. He had four sacks in a game against Wake Forest and finished the season with six.

Then when football season ended, he joined the Tar Heel basketball team and helped save Carolina's season. He brought a powerful, yet graceful, game to the floor in basketball.

Until he came along, teams had pushed the Tar Heel big men around. That stopped when Peppers took the floor. Butting heads in basketball was no big chore after slamming into 300-pound linemen all year in football.

"It's nothing to bump these guys around," Peppers said, smiling.

The Tar Heels were certainly happy to get him. His presence helped them eventually reach the Final Four.

"He was a God-send," UNC basketball coach Bill Guthridge said. "He is a great football player, and we will loan him back to football. I hope that it is January when he comes out after a bowl game."

Carolina football coach Carl Torbush sees Peppers much the same way, particularly given Peppers just started to scratch the surface of his talent toward the end of last season.

"The year in basketball will help him be a better football player in the fall," Torbush said. "The guys who played basketball in the past, I felt like their speed, quickness, agility and flexibility measure was a lot better after coming back from basketball."

One thing is for sure: Peppers has already proven he is one of the finest athletes to come out of the state of North Carolina. ❑

also signed two freshman quarterbacks, Dairan Durant of Florence, S.C, and Aaron Leak of Durham, N.C.

Torbush concedes that the defense will probably have to shoulder the burden of keeping UNC in games early, particularly if Curry is not the quarterback. The good news is that unit should be up to the challenge.

The Tar Heels' defense was a youthful group a year ago, having lost most of its stars from the previous three seasons. That bunch bounced back to show remarkable progress in the final three games and provide some hope that UNC will return to prominence on defense this season.

Torbush doubled as defensive coordinator his first two years, but he fired himself and promoted defensive line coach Ken Browning to the job during the offseason. The move should help Torbush become a more effective head coach and help the defense by allowing someone to devote all his attention to it.

All-American candidate Brandon Spoon returns at linebacker. Spoon tore a biceps muscle in his left arm after playing just 75 snaps last season. Luckily for the Tar Heels, Spoon had a redshirt season and decided to use it rather than head straight to the National Football League.

UNC HAS EXCELLENT DEPTH AT DEFENSIVE END, BUT COULD STRUGGLE AT DEFENSIVE TACKLE WITH AN INJURY OR TWO.

Spoon will be joined by freshman All-American defensive end Julius Peppers, who also made a major impact for the Carolina basketball team as a forward last season. At 6-6, 270 pounds, Peppers played with uncanny grace and power on the basketball court.

On the football field, he is a ferocious hitter at defensive end. He has just 6.1 percent body fat and has a 35-inch vertical leap. He had four quarterback sacks against Wake Forest last season and played his finest football at season's end.

The secondary is deep and talented. This group will get a boost from cornerback Michael Waddell, who missed last season after being a partial qualifier academically as a freshman. Waddell is known as "the Rabbit" for his blinding speed, which is reported to be in the 4.2 range in the 40-yard dash.

Errol Hood, J.P. Bomar and Billy-Dee Greenwood wil be counted on to provide improved defensive backfield play.

UNC has excellent depth at defensive end, but could struggle at defensive tackle with an injury or two.

The biggest concern is the kicking game. The Tar Heels lost their punter, placekicker and kickoff specialists. The coaching staff hopes incoming freshman Blake Ferguson will be able to handle at least one of those jobs.

— Eddy Landreth

N.C. STATE WOLFPACK

N.C. State would have had a difficult time finding anyone who wanted to be the head coach of the Wolfpack more than Chuck Amato, who left Florida State after serving under Bobby Bowden for 18 years to take over the Wolfpack program in January.

The Long Road Home

Amato originally came to Raleigh from Pennsylvania as a linebacker out of Easton High, lettering at N.C. State from 1965-67. He was a member of the famous White Shoes defense that carried the Wolfpack to a 9-2 record and a victory over No. 2-ranked Houston in 1967.

The night before N.C. State opened its season against archrival North Carolina in '67, Amato and his defensive teammates decided to dye their football cleats white. After the Wolfpack defeated UNC 13-7, the shoes stayed white.

"I'm around people who know what the White Shoes team was about," Amato said. "I can look players in the eye and say that I've been there. I've got a ring that says N.C. State (as ACC champion) on it.

"I was on a team that came that close (holding his hands apart a few inches) to winning a national championship. We got upset by Penn State. How about that one? We win that game, we would have been No. 1 in the country. We lost the national championship that day."

Amato replaced Mike O'Cain, who was fired after his seventh season as head coach last fall. Les Robinson, Wolfpack director of athletics, looked at several high-profile candidates before settling on Amato.

After his playing days, Amato left N.C. State to make his way in the world, but the Wolfpack was never far from his heart. In 1998, N.C. State became just the second ACC team to defeat Florida State. Amato stood on the opposing sideline that afternoon at Carter-Finley Stadium.

He would rather the Seminoles had won, but he conceded afterward that if FSU had to lose, he was glad it was to the Wolfpack.

When Robinson introduced Amato as the Wolfpack's new football coach Jan. 6, Amato talked about how he had come home.

And he said he returns much better prepared to make the Wolfpack a consistent winner because he worked for Bowden.

"I've had the opportunity for the last 18 years to work for the Pulitzer Prize winner of college football," Amato said. "And if I had left there 15 years ago, I wouldn't be as good as I am today."

Amato is smart enough to know that a huge gap in talent separates N.C. State from being Florida State on a regular basis. But he was also in Tallahassee long enough to know that Bowden did not inherit a national power. He built it through diligence and successful recruiting.

Bowden took a program that had gone 1-10 and turned it into a program that won two national titles and more games in the past 10 years than any school in the country.

"Twenty years ago Florida State was going to the All-American Bowl," Amato said. "It's not even in existence anymore. Let me give you another scenario. Ten years ago, would anyone have thought that a Virginia school would have won seven games or more 12 years in a row?

"When I was here, I don't know that (the Cavaliers) ever beat us. But they made the commitment to do it. Ten years ago would you have believed that in 1999 Virginia Tech would play for a national championship? But somebody had a dream there."

Amato said that he has the same dream for N.C. State. He says it can happen, too, but he is realistic enough to know that it will require a greater commitment from the school than N.C. State has shown in the past.

Wolfpack officials told Amato they are committed. It began with paying his assistants more than $1 million as a group, tops for any school in the country. It will continue with a pledge to pour more than $120 million into improving the football facilities.

at a glance

WOLFPACK

1999: 6-6 Overall; 3-5 ACC (5th)

COACH: Chuck Amato — At N.C. State and Overall: First year

RETURNING STARTERS: 15; 5 Offense, 9 Defense, Kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH: RB Ray Robinson, WR Koren Robinson, LB Levar Fisher, SS Adrian Wilson, FS Brian Williams, DT Jeff Fisher

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: Experience on defense and some hard-hitting safeties. Tailback Ray Robinson is an explosive player capable of putting up big numbers.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: The starting quarterback will be a freshman as will a couple of the starting offensive linemen. Amato should field a reasonably talented starting lineup, but depth is a real concern. There is very little experience in the kicking game.

OVERVIEW: This team cannot afford injuries. Its depth is paper-thin in most areas. Amato has a great deal of enthusiasm and seems able to motivate his players to perform intensely. Amato will likely suffer his first losing season in many years.

SENIOR CLAYTON WHITE IS ANOTHER IMPORTANT MEMBER OF A VETERAN LINEBACKER CORPS.

PHOTO BY STEVE BEYER

PACK
NC STATE
15
WOLFPACK

WOLFPACK RECRUITING

Name / Position	Size	Hometown	High School / College
ALFORD, T. DB	5-11, 180	Charlotte	Hargrave Military Acad.
Originally signed with NC State in 1999 ◆ Two-time All-Southwest Conference ◆ As a prep senior, had 752 yards rushing and five touchdowns ◆ Had 18 receptions for 420 yards and three touchdowns ◆ Had 46 tackles, two interceptions and five blocked kicks.			
BERTRAND, Andy WR	6-1, 175	Miami, FL	Hialeah Miami Lakes
All-District ◆ Had 22 receptions for 400 yards and four touchdowns as a senior ◆ Member of state champion 400-meter relay team.			
COTCHERY, Jerricho WR	6-2, 185	Birmingham, AL	Phillips
All-State ◆ All-Metro ◆ As a senior, had 39 receptions for 1,008 yards and 13 touchdowns ◆ Had five interceptions, including one returned for touchdown ◆ Four-year letterman in football and basketball.			
DAWSON, Corrie LB	6-3, 220	Birmingham, AL	Phillips
Honorable mention All-State ◆ All-Super Metro ◆ As a senior, had 104 tackles ◆ Four-year letterman in football and basketball.			
FOWLER, Ricky DL	6-2, 292	Columbus, GA	Kendrick
All-State ◆ Played offensive and defensive line ◆ Had 35 tackles as a senior ◆ Four-year letterman in football and wrestling ◆ Threw discus and shot put.			
GRAHAM, Troy WR	6-2, 180	Miami, FL	Miami Central
Third-team All-Dade County ◆ Helped team to 11-2 record and state playoffs ◆ As a senior, had 25 receptions for 528 yards and five touchdowns ◆ Returned kicks ◆ Won state title in 400-meter dash.			
HERBERT, Austin P/PK	5-11, 200	Cary	Cary
All-State ◆ Set state record for career field goals with 37 ◆ Had 41-yard punt average as a senior ◆ Put 74 percent of kickoffs in endzone ◆ Two-time All-State goalkeeper for soccer team.			
HERNDON, Dwayne DL	6-4, 255	Middlesex	Southern Nash
Two-time All-Conference ◆ As a senior, had 52 tackles, including 12 behind the line of scrimmage, five quarterback sacks, four fumbles caused and two fumbles recovered ◆ In final two seasons, had 729 yards rushing on 110 carries, a 6.6 yard per carry average ◆ Scored five touchdowns.			
JOHNSON, William ATH	6-1, 195	Miami, FL	Killian
Underwent surgery to repair ACL in November ◆ Played variety of positions, but primarily saw action at quarterback.			
MOYER, Chance LB	6-4, 254	Coker, AL	Tuscaloosa County
PrepStar All-American ◆ *Tuscaloosa News* Sweet 16 ◆ All-State ◆ Two-time All-West Alabama ◆ Had 228 career tackles ◆ As a senior, had eight tackles for loss and seven passes broken up.			
POLLARD, Roger LB	6-1, 195	Coral Gables, FL	Coral Gables
Second-team All-Dade County ◆ Helped team to playoffs ◆ Had 80 tackles, including 55 solo, four quarterback sacks, four fumbles caused, three passes broken up and one blocked kick as a senior ◆ Team captain.			
POOLE, Reggie OL	6-2, 310	Cedartown, GA	Mississippi Gulf Coast JC
Mississippi Junior College All-State ◆ Played in Mississippi Junior College All-Star game.			
PURCELL, Andrew LB	6-2, 195	Garner	Garner
Two-time All-Conference ◆ Conference Co-Defensive Player of the Year ◆ As a senior, had 97 solo tackles and 105 assists ◆ Two-year letterman in baseball.			
RIVERS, Phillip QB	6-5, 215	Athens, AL	Athens
Enrolled at NC State for spring semester ◆ *SuperPrep* rated No. 32 prospect in Dixie Region ◆ Alabama Player of the Year ◆ Completed 109 of 195 passes for 2,025 yards and 15 touchdowns as a senior.			
SANDERS, Kerrick DB	5-11, 185	Stone Mountain, GA	N. Mexico Military Inst.
Attended New Mexico Military Institute for two years ◆ Will enter NC State as a junior ◆ *JC Gridwire* Scholar-Athlete All-American ◆ As a sophomore, had 55 tackles, including three for loss, six interceptions, six quarterback pressures and 28 passes broken up ◆ Runs 4.4 in 40-yard dash.			
STEPHENS, Victor DB	6-2, 170	Webster, TX	Hargrave Military Acad.
Originally signed with NC State in 1999 ◆ Prep All-District ◆ Prep All-City ◆ Had four interceptions and nine pass deflections as a senior ◆ Averaged 24 yards per kickoff return.			
THOMAS, Chip LB	6-2, 222	Roxboro	Person
All-Area ◆ All-Conference ◆ Three-year starter ◆ As a senior, had 124 tackles, six fumbles caused and three fumbles recovered ◆ Two-time All-Conference in baseball.			
WALKER, James DB/WR	6-1, 175	South Mills	Camden
Originally signed with NC State in 1999 ◆ Two-time All-Conference ◆ Two-time All-Area ◆ Had 90 tackles, six interceptions and three fumbles recovered as a senior ◆ Had 972 yards rushing and scored 14 touchdowns ◆ Had 2,086 career rushing yards and 32 touchdowns ◆ Had 1,000 yards passing and 14 touchdowns ◆ Conference Player of the Year in basketball ◆ Conference champion in 100-meter dash.			
WILLIAMS, Steven DL	6-4, 245	Wilson	James B. Hunt
Two-time All-Conference ◆ Conference Defensive Player of the Year ◆ As a senior, had 92 tackles, including 31 tackles for loss, and eight quarterback sacks ◆ Had 70 tackles, including 18 behind the line of scrimmage, and five quarterback sacks as a junior.			

A LOOK AT THE WOLFPACK

RESULTS

(6-6, 3-5)

23	Texas	20
10	South Carolina	0
38	William & Mary	9
11	Florida State	42
7	Wake Forest	31
35	Clemson	31
26	Virginia	47
31	Duke (OT)	24
21	Georgia Tech	48
30	Maryland	17
6	North Carolina	10
6	East Carolina	23

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Passing

Name	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int
Barnette	338	171	2320	50.6	13	9
Sanders	17	9	165	52.9	1	0

Rushing

Name	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD
Spikes	140	636	4.5	39	4
Robinson	112	438	3.9	31	3
Stone	21	81	3.9	18	0
Doggett	22	77	3.5	39	0

Receiving

Name	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD
Robinson	48	853	17.8	70	2
Coleman	41	487	11.9	30	1
Peterson	21	274	13.0	49	2
Hamrick	17	217	12.8	20	1

Defensive Leaders

Tackles: Williams 131; Burnette 123; Wilson 104; Fisher 104.
Interceptions: Harrison 5; Scott 4; Wilson 3; Williams 2.
QB Sacks: Jamison 6.5; White 4.5; Burnette 3.5.
Tackles For Loss: White 16; Fisher 12; Jamison 10; Burnette 9.

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2	Arkansas State
Sept. 9	at Indiana
Sept. 16	SMU
Sept. 21	Georgia Tech
Oct. 7	at Clemson
Oct. 14	at North Carolina
Oct. 28	Florida State
Nov. 4	at Maryland
Nov. 11	Duke
Nov. 18	at Virginia
Nov. 25	Wake Forest

And improving the facilities will only improve the Wolfpack's credibility with recruits, Amato said.

"People will believe you when you say something, and they will not be looking over their shoulder to go someplace else," Amato said. "This is someplace else for me. I want to take us to the next level. But we have to take us to the next level. It's not an 'I' thing. It's a team thing.

"When (FSU wide receiver) Peter Warrick said that he was coming back for his senior year, people asked why he would do that when he could make all kinds of money. He said: ' It's not about me. It's about team.' Well, it's not about me. It's about those football players who are going to play for Chuck Amato. It's about those alumni who are proud of North Carolina State University.

"It's about the administration that wants a national championship-caliber team. It won't be easy. Nothing is easy. You have to work."

The work began this spring, and after what he saw, Amato took a cautious approach about what he could expect from his first season. He would never concede any games, but after being around Florida State's talent all these years, he understands what it takes to win.

And right now, he probably doesn't have it at N.C. State, at least not experienced talent.

"There is a bunch of young people out there when you look at who is on the field," Amato said. "There are people out there who have not started a college football game.

"There is a lot of growing up to do, and these youngsters have to believe they can do it."

The need for confidence begins with freshman quarterback Philip Rivers, who completed the requirements for a high school degree early and entered school in January.

Rivers (6-5, 216 pounds) won the job in the spring, but could not participate in the annual spring game because he fractured his right index finger in a scrimmage April 13 and underwent surgery.

The accident occurred on his second of 28 pass attempts in the scrimmage, hitting a lineman's helmet or shoulder pads on his follow-through.

"He's meant an awful lot to our team during the spring," Amato said.

Junior tailback Ray Robinson said that Rivers has impressed him with the way he handled himself on the field and with the way he handled being a newcomer midway through the school year.

"He looks great to me," Robinson said. "The height he has, being able to look over offensive linemen and get the ball to us quicker (is an asset). Before, Jamie (Barnette), he couldn't see everything."

Rivers has shown he can do more than see, Robinson said. The kid makes plays.

"I saw it every day we were out there," Robinson said. "He's learned the offense already. He learned he signals. He impressed me a lot, just coming out of high school and going through winter workouts with us.

"That showed me he was a tough kid."

Rivers should have the perfect offense to showcase his skills. Amato hired Norm Chow from Brigham Young to run the Wolfpack offense. Chow served as assistant head coach/offensive coordinator at BYU from 1978-99. He has coached many prolific quarterbacks, such as Steve Young.

Quarterback Jatavis Sanders, a 5-11 sophomore, served as Barnette's backup last season. He started for Rivers in the spring game. Sanders said that he believes this offense is simpler to digest than the one N.C. State ran in the past. O'Cain's offense was known for its diversities and complexities.

KOREN ROBINSON CAUGHT 48 PASSES FOR 853 YARDS AND WAS ACC ROOKIE OF THE YEAR.

BY TOMASSO DEROSA/TDSI

"It's easier to be honest with you," Sanders said. "It's a big-play offense. It's all on the quarterback now. You've got to make the mental plays. And the mental plays turn to big plays."

Rivers is confident that he made progress with the mental part of the game.

"The first few days," Rivers said, "everything was faster. People were running everywhere. I've adjusted to that, as far as the pace of the game. I have a long way to go, but I feel like I understand things."

The decision to come to N.C. State early wasn't simple. Rivers had to leave ahead of his high school classmates. He missed his senior prom. But now that he is on the verge of being N.C. State's starting quarterback before his first fall at the school, he said he has no doubts about his decision.

"If I was going to come to State," Rivers said, "I wanted to come early and get ahead learning things. I knew that was what I wanted to do, but you think you want to stay and play basketball and do all those things you wouldn't get to do.

"It was something I had to make up my mind I wanted to do and just not look back. I definitely think it was the right decision."

Robinson should be a big help in Rivers adjusting to col-

N.C. STATE

WOLFPACK SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Class	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown
97	Brandon Adams	DE	Jr	6-2	213	Cary
4	Quenton Allen	DB	Fr	6-2	194	Birmingham, AL
34	George Anderson	DE	So	6-0	244	LaPorte, TX
91	John Barksdale	DT	Sr	6-4	264	Augusta, GA
76	Lonnell Becoate	OG	Fr	6-4	287	Homestead, PA
68	Jarvis Borum	OT	Sr	6-7	341	Columbia, SC
59	Travis Brinson	OG	Fr	6-3	262	Statesboro, GA
63	Matt Broel	OT	Jr	6-5	294	Charlotte
94	William Brown	OG	Jr	6-2	270	Richmond, VA
95	Darius Bryant	DT	Jr	6-1	298	Suffolk, VA
45	Dantonio Burnette	MLB	So	5-10	220	W. Robbins, GA
7	Anthony Cason	CB	Jr	5-10	187	Chesapeake, VA
70	Chris Colmer	OG	Fr	6-5	293	Pt. Jefferson, NY
31	Keith Curtin	DB	So	6-0	181	Hendersonville
86	Alan Dawson	DE	Fr	6-3	252	Fayetteville
43	Carlos Doggett	TB	So	5-10	207	Greensboro
83	Brian Eastland	WR	Jr	6-1	191	New Bern
36	Marcus Ellerbe	FS	So	5-7	176	Ellerbe
90	Jeff Fisher	DT	Sr	6-1	285	Coatsville, PA
44	Levar Fisher	OLB	Jr	6-1	229	Beaufort
66	Walker Franklin	OG	Fr	6-4	276	Raleigh
33	Brandon Garrett	PK	Fr	5-9	167	Laurens, SC
56	Nate Goodson	DT	Jr	6-2	268	Roxboro
89	Joseph Gray	TE	So	6-4	248	Columbia, SC
73	Derek Green	C	So	6-3	271	Charlotte
93	Jerrick Hall	DT	So	6-1	290	Leland
9	Terrence Holt	SS	So	6-2	202	Gibsonville
25	Cotra Jackson	FB	So	5-11	213	Birmingham, AL
20	Brian Jamison	DE	Jr	6-2	230	Swedesboro, NJ
6	Rod Johnson	CB	So	5-9	175	LaMarque, TX
82	Andy Kelly	P	So	6-2	212	Brown Summit
47	Chris Kelly	LB	So	6-2	217	Brown Summit
21	Adam Kiker	PK	Fr	6-0	174	Wadesboro
75	Scott Kooistra	OT	So	6-6	300	Cary
72	Joe Lardino	OT	So	6-3	296	Parlin, NJ
10	Eric Leak	TB	Sr	5-8	190	Forest Hills
27	Greg Liverman	FB	Jr	6-1	220	Windsor
94	Sean Locklear	DT	Fr	6-3	276	Lumberton
22	Elliott London	WR	Fr	5-7	162	Garner
16	Corey Lyons	OLB	Jr	5-11	196	Garner
8	Lagrant Maye	QB	Fr	5-10	199	Wadesboro
19	Toki McCray	QB	Fr	6-0	186	Maryville, TN
24	Craig Moody	WR	Fr	6-0	180	Asheboro
37	Bobby Moore	PK/P	So	5-10	203	Northport, AL
38	Christopher Nelson	WR	Jr	6-0	184	New Bern
35	William Pannell	OLB	Jr	6-3	212	Cordele, GA
26	Kent Passingham	PK	Sr	5-9	174	Holly Ridge
32	Julius Patterson	C	So	5-10	180	Morganton
87	Mark Pelshak	OLB	So	6-3	220	Charlotte
2	Bryan Peterson	WR	So	5-10	189	Clinton
71	Mel Quitman	OG	So	6-3	329	Asheville
69	Alex Rice	OG	Sr	6-4	311	Youngsville
92	Shane Riggs	DT	So	6-3	265	Charlotte
17	Philip Rivers	QB	Fr	6-5	216	Athens, AL
42	Derek Roberts	FB	Sr	6-1	244	Putnam, CT
3	Koren Robinson	WR	So	6-2	200	Belmont
5	Ray Robinson	TB	Jr	5-10	202	Hilston Head, SC
14	Jatavis Sanders	QB	So	5-11	182	Stone Mountain, GA
49	Ryan Shook	FB	Jr	6-1	242	Windsor
85	Tramayne Simmons	TE	Sr	6-2	242	Newport News, VA
48	Corey Smith	DE	Jr	6-2	245	Richmond, VA
11	Edrick Smith	MLB	So	6-0	245	Northport, AL
28	Shaunte Southern	TB	Sr	5-8	185	High Point
12	K.J. Stone	RB	So	5-10	186	Green Level
98	Rashad Streets	DT	Jr	6-1	307	U. Marlboro, MD
87	Lee Tornabene	DE	Fr	6-2	229	Canonsburg, PA
64	Tim Turner	OG	So	6-6	319	Coatesville, PA
88	Andy Vanderveer	TE	Jr	6-4	240	Charlotte
13	James Walker	CB/WR	Fr	6-0	180	South Mills
41	J.J. Washington	CB	Fr	5-7	174	Stone Mountain, GA
54	Keegan Weir	C	Jr	6-5	282	Stuart, FL
15	Clayton White	OLB	Sr	6-0	225	Dunn
84	Paul Whittaker	TE	Jr	6-7	258	Franklin
78	Jermaine Wilkinson	OT	Sr	6-5	325	Dayton, OH
29	Brian Williams	FS	Jr	6-0	200	High Point
1	Adrian Wilson	SS	Jr	6-3	212	High Point
99	Drew Wimsatt	DE	So	6-3	238	Damascus, MD
52	G.L. Woodard	LS	Fr	5-9	242	Clayton
80	Willie Wright	TE	So	6-4	213	Greensboro

Roster and depth chart subject to change.

2000 PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Philip Rivers, Fr/Jatavis Sanders, So
FB	Derek Roberts, Sr*/Cotra Jackson, So
TB	Ray Robinson, Jr/Carlos Doggett, So
WR	Koren Robinson, So*/James Walker, Fr
WR	Bryan Peterson, So/Eric Leak, Sr
TE	Andy Vanderveer, Jr*/Joe Gray, So
LT	Jarvis Borum, Sr*/Matt Broel, Jr
LG	Chris Colmer, Fr/Alex Rice, Sr
C	Keegan Weir, Jr/Derek Green, So
RG	Tim Turner, So/William Brown, Jr
RT	Scott Kooistra, So/Jermaine Wilkinson, Sr
PK	Kent Passingham, Sr*/Austin Herbert, Fr

DEFENSE	
DE	Brian Jamison, Jr*/Drew Wimsatt, So
DT	Nate Goodson, Jr*/Jerrick Hall, So
NT	Jeff Fisher, Sr*/Darius Bryant, Jr
DE	Corey Smith, Jr/George Anderson, So
OLB	Levar Fisher, Jr*/Williams Pannell, Jr*
MLB	Dantonio Burnette, So*/Edrick Smith, So
OLB	Clayton White, Sr*/Corey Lyons, Jr
CB	Julius Patterson, So/Marcus Ellerbe, So
CB	J.J. Washington, Fr/Anthony Cason, Jr
SS	Adrian Wilson, Jr*/Terrence Holt, So
FS	Brian Williams, Jr*/Quenton Allen, Fr
P	Andy Kelly, So

SPRING UPDATE

This was a whirlwind spring for first-year Wolfpack coach Chuck Amato, his new staff and the players he inherited from Coach Mike O'Cain.

Amato took the job Jan. 6 and it was a slow process to hire staff. The new coaches and their players had to get to know one another under the pressure of competing for playing time.

The coaching staff discovered there are some talented players on the roster. Whether there are enough to win will remain unanswered until this fall.

Outside linebacker Levar Fisher made a big impression, but TB Ray Robinson (offense) and SS Adrian Wilson (defense) were named the most outstanding players. Amato said that Robinson's well-being is critical to this team. And Wilson will deliver a blow from his safety position.

But it was Fisher who earned the big-hitter award. He showed why in the spring game. Fisher led the way with seven tackles, including a three-yard tackle for loss. He also recovered a fumble and intercepted a pass.

Fisher gave a passionate performance in a scrimmage, and that's the attribute Amato speaks of a lot — intensity and competitive spirit.

Defensive ends Nate Goodson and Brian Jamison missed the last week of spring with pulled muscles. Linebacker Edrick Smith, running back K.J. Stone and Dantonio Burnette all missed the spring with injuries. The biggest injury of the spring came when first-year quarterback Philip Rivers broke a finger in practice. He had surgery and should be ready to go in August. He did miss the spring game.

Wide receiver Koren Robinson, last year's Rookie of the Year in the ACC, showed his talents this spring, but he showed his age, too.

Robinson played running back in high school and spent his redshirt season and freshman year at wide receiver. He displayed his big-play potential from the start, but as with most young players, there is inconsistency. The inconsistency was still showing in spring practice as Robinson prepares to enter his sophomore season, Amato said.

— Eddy Landreth

RAY ROBINSON WAS NAMED ACC ROOKIE OF THE YEAR IN 1998 AND SEEMED POISED TO HAVE A HUGE SEASON A YEAR AGO.

PHOTO BY STEVE BEYER

NORTH CAROLINA STATE

Healthy Robinson a Key for the Wolfpack

Ray Robinson came to N.C. State as one of five running backs that signed to enter school two years ago.

Then-coach Mike O'Cain said that a few of those five would wind up playing other positions, some would redshirt and at least one would play his freshman year.

It didn't take long to see that Robinson would be the one on the field. Robinson (5-11, 190) combined great lateral movement with an explosive first step, speed once he got behind the defense, and a tremendous amount of self-confidence.

"Competition is good, but that's not what really motivates me," Robinson said. "I want to be the best at everything I do. That's what motivates me."

Everyone saw quickly that the best Robinson could do would be better than most. When he ran for 822 yards on 154 carries (5.3-yards per carry).

Robinson was named ACC Rookie of the Year and seemed poised to have a huge season a year ago. Then he sprained an ankle in the preseason. Just when he was about to return to full strength, he sprained his other ankle. Later in the year, he had to undergo knee surgery.

He wound up with just 112 carries for 438 yards (3.9-yards per carry).

"After I got both ankles and had to get my knee (operated on), that took a lot out of me," Robinson said. "I was thinking, 'What else was going to go wrong?' "

Robinson's hope for being a top performer has returned. He made it through spring practice healthy. He's learning a new offense under first-year head coach Chuck Amato and his offensive coordinator Norm Chow, who came to Raleigh from Brigham Young.

Suddenly Robinson's future seems as promising as ever.

"It's different in many ways," Robinson said of the new offense. "Now I'm getting the ball thrown to me a lot more. I will be able to get involved a lot more in the passing game. It will help develop me overall."

That is great news for the Wolfpack. ❑

lege ball because Rivers should be able to lean on the talented tailback early in the season. Robinson established himself as one of the top running backs in the ACC two years ago, when he was Rookie of the Year.

Last season he suffered through his toughest season in football, hobbled by injuries throughout the year. Sprained ankles hurt him at the start. Later he underwent knee surgery.

"It was tough," Robinson said. "At one time I wanted to get redshirted because I was only playing so much. I just have to move on."

Amato said there isn't any doubt of Robinson's value to this team. "We held him out of a scrimmage because we felt the worst thing that could happen to N.C. State University was for Ray Robinson to get injured," Amato said.

The Wolfpack had the Rookie of the Year last season, too. This time wide receiver Koren Robinson won the award, and he showed tremendous potential in earning it.

He caught 48 passes for 853 yards and two touchdowns, averaging 17.8 yards per catch.

BUT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS, DEFENSE SHOULD BE THE WOLFPACK'S STRENGTH. NINE STARTERS RETURN.

But for the first time in years, defense should be the Wolfpack's strength. Nine starters return. Linebacker Levar Fisher and strong safety Adrian Wilson are two big hitters.

Senior Clayton White is another important member of a veteran linebcker corps.

"Fisher is a runner and a hitter," Amato said. "He plays with emotion and makes big plays. He's a leader.

"It was a smack. It was one of those hits where everyone wants to know, 'Who was that?' People are going to pick up the program and say, 'Who is number 44?'"

The kicking game could present one of Amato's bigger challenges. He must replace his punter, and the returning placekicker, Kent Passingham, has been inconsistent at best.

Amato did sign an outstanding prospect in Austin Herbert, who set the North Carolina record for career field goals (37) at Cary High School. His long was a 50-yarder. He can also punt.

"He is somebody who can really solidify our kicking game for the next four years," Amato said.

— Eddy Landreth

18
18

VIRGINIA CAVALIERS

Perhaps one of the worst lickings in the more than a hundred year history of Virginia football might just have been one of the best things for the Cavaliers' future.

When coach George Welsh and his Wahoos arrived in Miami last December for the Micronpc.com Bowl, they were feeling pretty good about themselves. Virginia had overcome adversity all season, a campaign riddled with the most injuries Welsh could remember in 27 years as a head coach. Complicating the challenge was the loss of key personnel due to academic and legal suspensions.

Even Welsh wondered aloud if his team could continue the string of 13 consecutive seasons with no less than seven wins, an accomplishment matched only by Florida State, Nebraska and Michigan.

Virginia did it with offense under new coordinator Gary Tranquill, often having to score 30 or more points to somehow go 7-4. Even Welsh confessed that often during game-week preparation he looked at the patchwork defense and wondered how his team kept winning.

Virginia fans believed it might have been Welsh's best coaching job. But the back-slapping stopped after the Cavaliers' stunning 63-21 loss to Illinois in the bowl game. An embarrassed Welsh promised immediately afterward to put his entire program under a microscope and if need be, "re-invent the program."

For the winningest coach in Atlantic Coast Conference history, a man who has worked magic with the Virginia program, to shelve his pride and make changes took quite a personal sacrifice. But that's exactly what Welsh did.

He reshuffled his coaching staff in the offseason, the major changes being shifting running backs coach Bob Price to the secondary, defensive backfield coach Art Markos to wide receivers, and receivers coach Andre Powell back to his old spot of two years ago as coach of the running backs. Welsh also appointed Markos and David Turner as the team's special teams co-coordinators, the first time he has ever had coordinators for special teams.

But the changes didn't end there. Welsh demanded good attendance during the winter workout program. He received perfect attendance from every player. Plagued with a rash of hamstring injuries the past few seasons, Welsh wanted that addressed in the offseason workouts, so new strength coach Tony Decker instituted new points of emphasis to eliminate the problem. As a result, the Cavaliers had only one hamstring injury during the entire winter and spring process.

Welsh sent his coaches to several NFL and college programs to bring back fresh ideas and to also learn if what the Cavaliers had been doing was still sound on both sides of the football.

"We took more time over the winter to examine everything we're doing," said Welsh, thought by many football experts to be the best college coach in America. "The Xs and Os haven't changed much, but have changed some, maybe more than in the past."

Welsh Reshapes the Cavs' Program

Sure to be welcomed back by Virginia fans is some option attack in the team's already diversified offense. Tranquill effectively used the option in 1990 when the Cavaliers boasted one of the nation's most explosive offenses with the "Moore-to-Moore" connection, quarterback Shawn Moore and receiver Herman Moore, along with running back Terry Kirby. Tranquill, who returned to UVa last year after a long stint with the Cleveland Browns and Michigan State, spent time at Nebraska over the winter to study the Cornhuskers' offense and especially the option package.

"Having an option phase to our offense is great," said senior quarterback Dan Ellis, who is mobile enough to run the ball. "We're definitely going to use the option as a weapon. Plus, opposing defenses are going to have to take extra

BIG-TIME HITTER YUBRENAL ISABELLE WILL HELP AT MIDDLE LINEBACKER.

PHOTO BY STEVE BEYER

at a glance

CAVALIERS

1999: 7-5 Overall; 5-3 ACC (Tie/2nd)

COACH: George Welsh — At Virginia: 128-80-3, 18 years; Overall: 183-126-4, 27 years

RETURNING STARTERS: 11; 6 Offense, 5 Defense

PLAYERS TO WATCH: QB Dan Ellis, RB Antwoine Womack, WR Billy McMullen, OL Josh Lawson, LB Yubrenal Isabelle, LB Byron Thweatt, FS Jerton Evans

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: Six former prep All-American running backs. Big offensive line. Experienced quarterback who can run the option. Running game should be among nation's best. Defense will be anchored by a strong corps of experienced linebackers who are mobile and hostile.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: Virginia's secondary lacks experience and depth. With an unproven front four, there is no reason to think the secondary will get much help from the pass rush.

OVERVIEW: UVa has enough offensive firepower to win most games. Good thing. With a suspect defense for the second year in a row, the Wahoos may not stop opposing high-powered offenses.

CAVALIERS RECRUITING

Name / Position	Size	Hometown	High School / College
BEDESEM, Rich FB/LB	6-2, 220	Holland, PA	Council Rock
Hard-hitter with good size and speed ◆ Runs 4.66 seconds for 40 yards ◆ Rated No. 18 player in Pennsylvania by *SuperPrep* ◆ All-State.			
CANTY, Christopher TE/DE	6-7, 222	Charlotte, NC	Charlotte Latin
Two-year starter ◆ Excellent athlete who started at center in basketball ◆ Has a chance to play on either side of the ball at college level.			
CHAMBLISS, Jeremiah WR/DB	5-10, 165	St. Petersburg, FL	Pinellas Park
Caught 48 passes for 762 yards and 10 touchdowns last season.			
CURRY, Almondo WR/DB	5-9, 165	Hampton	Fork Union Military Acad.
Rushed for 1,175 yards as senior at Hampton High School ◆ Runs 4.4 seconds for 40 yards.			
DORSEY, Mark WR/DB	6-2, 185	Jacksonville, FL	The Bolles School
Intercepted three passes as a senior, but season was cut short by injury ◆ Had six interceptions as a junior, including one in state championship victory ◆ Has played cornerback, but is likely to end up at safety.			
FARRINGTON, Mark OL/DL	6-2, 265	Spring, TX	Klein
Considered one of the best centers in Texas last season ◆ Candidate for early playing time ◆ *USA Today* honorable mention All-American.			
HARDY, Marcus TE/DL	6-4, 215	Blackstone	Nottoway
All-state on offense and defense, but projects as a tight end in college ◆ As a senior caught 50 passes for 800 yards and 10 touchdowns ◆ Was in on 68 tackles and made four sacks ◆ District Player of the Year on defense ◆ Rated No. 13 player in Virginia by *SuperPrep* ◆ Basketball letterman.			
HAYES, Reggie TE/DL	6-3, 250	Wilmington, NC	Fork Union Military Acad.
Runs 4.7 seconds for 40 yards.			
HOFFMAN, Andrew OL/DL	6-4, 255	South Riding	Park View
Rated No. 18 player Virginia by *SuperPrep* ◆ Made 91 tackles, 10 for loss, including six sacks as a senior ◆ Helped team to a 13-1 record, losing in the state final when he was out due to mononucleosis.			
HOLT, Joe OL/DL	6-4, 295	Clearwater, FL	Clearwater
Rated No. 82 player in Florida by *SuperPrep* ◆ Missed much of senior season due to a broken foot ◆ Can play any of the five spots on the offensive line ◆ Two-time All-state.			
HOWELL, Tom OL/DL	6-4, 260	Sarasota, FL	Riverview
Honorable mention all-region by *PrepStar* .			
ISAIAH, Brandon FB/LB	6-2, 210	Winston-Salem, NC	Parkland Senior
Gained 2,152 yards as a senior, and scored 10 touchdowns ◆ Rushed for 1,500 yards as a junior ◆ Runs 4.55 seconds for 40 yards ◆ Honorable mention All-ACC Region by *PrepStar*.			
JOHNSON, Hikee RB/DB	5-11, 190	North Wales, PA	North Penn
As a senior, rushed for 1,550 yards and 10 touchdowns, averaging 6.86 yards per carry ◆ Rated No. 10 player in Pennsylvania by *SuperPrep* ◆ Had 4,113 career rushing yards ◆ Second-team All-State ◆ Caught 16 passes for 222 yards ◆ *Rivals100.com* All-Midwest ◆ *USA Today* honorable mention All-American.			
MANN, Raymond LB	6-2, 215	Hampton	Hampton
Made 127 tackles as a senior ◆ Second-team all-state as an offensive lineman ◆ Has a 38-inch vertical jump and bench presses 395 pounds ◆ *Rivals100.com* All-Midwest, rated No. 13 linebacker nationally ◆ *SuperPrep* rated No. 2 player in Virginia ◆ *USA Today* honorable mention All-American.			
McGREW, Michael WR/DB	6-3, 185	Birmingham, AL	Shades Valley
Caught 28 passes for 500 yards and four touchdowns as a senior ◆ *PrepStar* All-Region.			
PENWELL, Scott, Jr. WR/DB	6-4, 200	Wormleysburg, PA	Cedar Cliff
Runs 4.6 seconds for 40 yards ◆ Two-way starter.			
SCHWEITZER, Billy QB	6-3, 200	Alexandria	St. Stephens
Runs 4.9 seconds for 40 yards ◆ Rated No. 24 player in Virginia by *SuperPrep* ◆ Outstanding baseball prospect.			
SMITH, Bryan PK/P	5-10, 155	Hampton	Hampton
Made 10 of 16 field goals and 62 of 66 extra points as a senior ◆ Hit six of seven field goals as a junior.			
THOMAS, Art RB/DB	6-3, 205	Mechanicsburg, PA	Fork Union Military Acad.
Originally signed with Virginia in 1999 ◆ Rated No. 4 player in Pennsylvania by *SuperPrep* ◆ Two-way starter ◆ Had seven interceptions and was a 1,000-yard rusher as a senior ◆ Rated No. 3 in the East by *PrepStar* in athlete category.			
WARD, Jon RB/LB	6-1, 235	Poway, CA	Poway
Rushed for 1,100 yards and 13 scores in 150 attempts last season ◆ Runs 4.46 seconds for 40 yards ◆ *PrepStar* All-American ◆ Rated No. 40 player in California by *SuperPrep* ◆ *Rivals100.com* rated No. 77 running back nationally ◆ *USA Today* honorable mention All-American.			
WEEKS, Marquis RB/DB	5-11, 195	Berwyn, PA	Conestoga
Rushed for 2,305 yards and 24 touchdowns on 293 carries as a senior ◆ Career totals: 808 carries for 6,193 yards and 71 scores ◆ *Philadelphia Enquirer* Player of the Year as a senior ◆ Rated No. 8 player in Pennsylvania by *SuperPrep* ◆ *PrepStar* All-American.			
WINBORNE, Jamaine WR/DB	6-0, 195	Chesapeake	Fork Union Military Acad.
Runs 4.5 seconds for 40 yards ◆ Two-way starter, likely a college wide receiver.			
YARBROUGH, Zac OL/DL	6-4, 240	Winter Park, FL	Fork Union Military Acad.
Two-way starter ◆ May play offensive line, defensive line or tight end in college.			

A LOOK AT THE CAVALIERS

RESULTS

(7-5, 5-3)

20	North Carolina	17
14	Clemson	33
35	Wake Forest	7
45	BYU	40
7	Virginia Tech	31
17	Duke (2OT)	24
47	N.C. State	26
10	Florida State	35
45	Georgia Tech	38
50	Buffalo	21
34	Maryland	30
	MicronPC.com Bowl	
21	Illinois	63

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Passing

Name	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int
Ellis	258	156	2050	60.5	20	10
Rivers	43	23	271	53.5	3	2

Rushing

Name	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD
Jones	334	1798	5.4	71	16
Harris	30	112	3.7	15	0
Foreman	20	97	4.8	21	1
Mason	3	47	15.7	31	1

Receiving

Name	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD
McMullen	28	483	17.2	42	6
Coffey	28	437	15.6	44	7
Jones	22	239	10.9	84	1
Hawkins	21	253	12.0	24	1

Defensive Leaders

Tackles: Taylor 81; Isabelle 78; Anderson 74; Williams 69.
Interceptions: Evans 4; Newby 2; Stukes 2; Williams 2.
QB Sacks: Taylor 6; Stamenich 5; Anderson 4; Shivers 2.
Tackles For Loss: Taylor 15; Stamenich 9; Anderson 7.

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2	BYU
Sept. 9	Richmond
Sept. 16	at Duke
Sept. 23	Clemson
Sept. 30	at Wake Forest
Oct. 7	Maryland
Oct. 21	at Florida State
Oct. 28	North Carolina
Nov. 9	at Georgia Tech
Nov. 18	N.C. State
Nov. 25	at Virginia Tech

DAN ELLIS FINISHED EIGHTH NATIONALLY IN PASSING EFFICIENCY IN HIS FIRST YEAR AS A STARTER LAST SEASON.

PHOTO BY TOMASSO DEROSA/TDSI

time to practice against it."

The feeling around the ACC is that Virginia may have to again score 40 points a game to win because of a suspect defense. But excuse Welsh if he's wearing a Cheshire cat, canary-chomping grin. He might just have an offense to send the conference's scoreboards into astronomical gyrations, even minus departed All-American running back Thomas Jones.

"I honestly don't think we'll skip a beat with our running game," said Ellis. "That may sound brash because Thomas Jones was a great back (who broke UVa and ACC rushing records). I don't think we'll have anyone rushing for 1,900 yards again. But we have at least three running backs with different styles and all but one of them can catch the ball well."

Welsh has always been a strong believer in the power running game. He describes that style as "Virginia Football," and has a long list of successful running backs to back up his theory. Welsh sent Barry Word (Chiefs), Marcus Wilson (Packers), Terry Kirby (Dolphins, 49ers, Browns), Tiki Barber (Giants) and Jones (Cardinals) to the NFL.

No wonder Welsh and Tranquill's backfield is well-stocked with former high school All-American running backs such as Antwoine Womack, Arlen Harris, Tyree Foreman, Art Thomas and three highly-sought-after incoming freshmen, Hikee Johnson and Marquis Weeks, both of Pennsylvania and big Jon Ward from California.

Womack has the most promise. As a backup to Jones his first two years in the program, Womack was often spectacular and finished among the ACC's top five rushers as second-fiddle to Jones in 1998. He sat out last season because of a malicious wounding charge that was reduced to assault and battery, and is expected to return to the team this fall.

But the other backs haven't exactly conceded the starting job to the more experienced Womack. Harris, who gained some time behind Jones late last season, spent the season getting stronger and faster and could benefit greatly from the option with his ability to get to the corner. Foreman, who has played some the past two seasons, is a punishing straight ahead runner, who is big and strong.

They will be lining up behind a massive offensive line, perhaps the biggest in Virginia history, averaging more than 300 pounds. The line will be anchored by 6-5, 302-pound junior Josh Lawson, who will start for his third straight season. Lawson can play either guard or tackle, which could come in handy if giant left tackle Jermese Jones, 6-6, 330, can't shake the injury bug. Brad Barnes, at 6-7, 295, was the most-improved lineman last season and guard Evan Routzahn, 6-5, 314, is solid as is lightweight Kevin Baily, who can fill in at guard or tackle at 6-6, 263. Center Dustin Keith is 6-5, 285.

But as much as Welsh and Tranquill believe in power running, they also believe in a relatively balanced offense. Tranquill isn't shy when it comes to going airborne and neither is Ellis, who finished eighth nationally in passing efficiency in his first year as a starter last season.

His 20 touchdown passes and an ability to rally the team in the clutch as he did in the final two minutes to beat Maryland, showed critical Cavalier fans that Ellis has the stuff that winners are made of. He should only be better with a year of experience under his belt.

Ellis is backed up by redshirt freshmen Bryson Spinner and Matt Schaub, both high school All-Americans. They were equally impressive in the spring in trying to win the backup job, which is still undecided. "I guess this means I'll have a backup quarterback controversy," deadpanned Welsh.

Spinner, a more mobile quarterback who has drawn comparisons to Shawn Moore, former Georgia Tech quarterback Joe Hamilton and current Virginia Tech quarterback Michael Vick, said he doesn't feel any pressure to be like any of those players. He just wants to be Bryson Spinner. Schaub is a strong-armed, classic drop-back passer, but like Ellis, is mobile enough to run the option.

The quarterbacks will have plenty of targets, including big Billy McMullen, who was compared to Herman Moore after he broke some of Moore's freshman records. McMullen came unheralded to Virginia from nearby Fork Union Military Academy where he won the praise of coach John Shuman for having the best hands Shuman had seen. McMullen caught 28 passes as a true freshman, six of those for touchdowns. Like Moore, he has the ability to go up in a crowd and come down with the pigskin.

Also returning is experience, depth and speed from senior Kevin Coffey. Coffey had 28 receptions last year, seven for TDs. Senior speedster Demetrius Dotson showed signs of stardom last season before being sidelined by an injury, while another speedster, sophomore Tevon Mason, might be the team's fastest player. Sophomore James Johnson, who missed last season with hamstring problems, could be the surprise receiver in 2000.

Because Virginia's defense lacked overall talent, speed and athleticism last season and lost three starters from the secondary since that bowl blowout, Welsh and coordinator Rick Lantz have

VIRGINIA

CAVALIERS SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Class	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown
82	Mike Abrams	P	Jr	6-4	236	Aiken, SC
87	Billy Baber	TE	Sr	6-4	250	Crozet
65	Kevin Bailey	OT	Fr	6-6	263	Lexington, KY
71	Brad Barnes	OT	Sr	6-7	295	Grafton
58	Devon Battle	DE	So	6-3	239	Roanoke
70	Heath Boucek	C/LS	So	6-3	239	St. Petersburg, FL
33	Guy Brown	RB	So	6-1	221	Pittsburgh, PA
79	Ben Carber	OG	Fr	6-0	308	Doylestown, PA
51	Ryan Childress	LS	Fr	6-0	190	Shawsville
68	Shomari Chism	DE	Fr	6-3	237	Smyrna, GA
28	William Clark	LB	Jr	6-1	223	Perth Amboy, NJ
4	Bryce Coffee	P	Fr	5-11	173	Lynchburg
88	Kevin Coffey	WR	Sr	6-4	200	East Cleveland, OH
27	R.C. Cosby	LB	Fr	6-1	210	Richmond
83	Kenny Crawford	WR	Sr	5-11	167	Hampton
55	Angelo Crowell	LB	So	6-1	209	Winston-Salem, NC
51	Beau Dickerson	LB	Fr	6-1	210	Bethesda, MD
19	Demetrius Dotson	WR	Sr	6-0	202	Staten Island, NY
5	Andy Dugger	PK/P	So	6-3	192	Connellsville, PA
17	Dan Ellis	QB	Sr	6-2	207	Exton, PA
30	Jerton Evans	DB	So	5-11	186	Lynchburg
42	Tyree Foreman	RB	Jr	5-11	220	Sandy Spring, MD
61	Spencer Francis	OG	Fr	6-4	250	Lovingston
57	Jay Green	C	Fr	6-2	274	Alpharetta, GA
31	David Greene	PK	Jr	5-10	178	Hampton
23	Arlen Harris	RB	So	5-11	205	Exton, PA
9	Ahmad Hawkins	DB	Sr	5-10	185	Hampton
18	Yubrenal Isabelle	LB	Sr	6-1	237	Bluefield, WV
36	Gavin Jackson	DB	Fr	6-1	191	Gordonsville
66	Butch Jefferson	OG	So	6-4	288	Forest
14	James Johnson	WR	So	6-1	188	Camp Springs, MD
2	Josh Jones	PK	Jr	5-7	161	Hampton
74	Jermese Jones	OT	Jr	6-6	320	Durham, NC
75	Dustin Keith	C	Sr	6-5	285	Yorktown
78	Micah Kimball	OT	Fr	6-4	239	Fonda, NY
29	Keith Kobyra	WR	So	6-1	187	Clifton
34	Parker Lange	DB	Jr	6-1	194	Atlanta, GA
49	Jermaine Lauzon	DB	Jr	6-3	196	Virignia Beach
52	Josh Lawson	OG/OT	Jr	6-5	295	Woodbridge
81	Chris Luzar	TE	Jr	6-7	246	Williamsburg
32	Kase Luzar	FB	Fr	6-2	226	Williamsburg
40	Marcus Martin	TE	So	6-5	218	Ivy
11	Billy McMullen	WR	So	6-4	195	Richmond
59	Colin McWeeny	DT	So	6-4	270	Hartford, CT
25	Trey Moeller	DB	Fr	5-8	165	Montgomery, AL
77	Drew Nelson	OT	So	6-6	292	Alpharetta, GA
20	Shernard Newby	DB	So	6-1	208	Dendron
63	Logan Nicholson	OT	Fr	6-5	268	Atlanta, GA
46	Stan Norfleet	DE	Fr	6-3	235	Charlotte, NC
43	Greg Owens	P	Jr	6-0	201	Stuart, FL
98	Monsanto Pope	DT	Jr	6-4	275	Hopewell
67	Tom Posillico	OG	So	6-2	277	Huntington, NY
85	Rick Ramsey	TE	Jr.	6-5	232	Richmond
90	Terrell Ricks	DE	Fr	6-5	250	Chesapeake
2	Rashad Roberson	DB	So	5-11	190	Atlanta, GA
44	Merrill Robertson	DE	So	6-1	242	Richmond
4	Sharif Rosales-Webb	WR	Fr	6-0	190	Palo Alto, CA
56	Evan Routzahn	OG	Jr	6-5	314	Middletown, MD
45	Sam Sangobowale	LB	Fr	6-1	212	Bronx, NY
37	Ryan Sawyer	DB	Fr	6-2	194	Marietta, GA
7	Matt Schaub	QB	Fr	6-5	223	West Chester, PA
22	Alex Seals	WR/DB	So	6-2	182	Martinsville
92	Larry Simmons	DT	Fr	6-2	260	Staunton
10	Earl Sims	LB	Jr	6-1	226	Miami, FL
3	Bryson Spinner	QB	Fr	6-2	214	Alexandria
91	Ljubomir Stamenich	DE	Jr	6-3	253	Great Falls
32	Byron Thweatt	LB	Sr	6-2	233	Chesterfield
21	Tim Spruill	DB	Sr	5-10	175	Savage, MD
62	George Stanley	DT	Jr	6-2	289	Montclair, NJ
89	Justin Walker	DT	Fr	6-2	280	State Island, NY
47	Brian Walsh	WR/FB	Fr	6-3	295	Whitesboro, NY
41	Patrick Washington	RB	Sr	6-3	235	Washington, DC
13	Chezley Watson	DB	Jr	6-2	207	Gainesville, GA
64	Jared Woodson	C/OG	Jr	6-6	282	North Garden

Roster and depth chart subject to change.

2000 PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	Dan Ellis, Sr*/Bryson Spinner, Fr or Matt Schaub, Fr
RB	Antwoine Womack, Jr/Arlen Harris, So
FB	Patrick Washington, Sr/Kase Luzar, Fr
WR	Kevin Coffey, Sr*/Billy McMullen, So
WR	Demetrius Dotson, Jr/Tevon Mason, So
TE	Billy Baber, Sr*/Chris Luzar, Jr
LT	Jermese Jones, Jr/Kevin Bailey, Fr
LG	Josh Lawson, Jr*/Ben Carber, Fr
C	Dustin Keith, Sr/Jared Woodson, Jr
RG	Evan Routzahn, Jr*/Butch Jefferson, So
RT	Brad Barnes, Sr*/Micah Kimball, Fr
PK	David Greene, Jr/Bryce Coffee, Fr

DEFENSE	
LE	Merrill Robertson, So/Shomari Chism, Fr
LT	Colin McWeeny, So/George Stanley, Jr
RT	Monsanto Pope, Jr*/Justin Walker, Fr
RE	Ljubomir Stamenich, Jr*/Boo Battle, So
OLB	Byron Thweatt, Sr*/John Duckett, Jr
ILB	Yubrenal Isabelle, Sr*/Raymond Mann, Fr
OLB	Donny Green, Sr/Angelo Crowell, So
CB	Tim Spruill, Sr/Devon Simmons, Jr
CB	Ahmad Hawkins, Sr/Rashad Roberson, So
SS	Shernard Newby, So/Jermaine Lauzon, Jr
FS	Jerton Evans, So*/Gavin Jackson, Fr
P	Mike Abrams, Jr/Greg Owens, Jr

SPRING UPDATE

The Cavaliers entered the spring searching for help in the defensive secondary, but broke camp with a lot of question marks about the cornerback positions.

Only one experienced corner returns, senior Tim Spruill, who was a part-time starter last season when more experienced regulars were sidelined with injuries. In an attempt to shore up the position, Welsh experimented by moving senior wide receiver Ahmad Hawkins to corner and tried former Virginia basketball player Chezley Watson at the corner.

Hawkins showed an ability to make the transition because of his speed and athleticism. Watson played like, well, er … a basketball player. But Welsh said he saw signs that Watson may contribute down the road.

Meanwhile, UVa lost starting redshirt freshman safety Chris Williams to academic suspension, leaving sophomore Jerton Evans as the only experienced starter at those two positions.

Welsh hopes that an improved pass rush, which could feature defensive ends Merrill Robertson and Boo Battle, will put more pressure on opposing quarterbacks and help the secondary.

• While the team awaits the return of tailback Antwoine Womack this fall, his understudies aren't conceding the starting job. Sophomore Arlen Harris and junior Tyree Foreman enjoyed good springs and won't give up the job without a fight. Harris and Foreman played last season behind All-American Thomas Jones.

• Welsh sent his coaching staff to NFL and college sites to get some new ideas. The major result was what offensive coordinator Gary Tranquill brought back from Nebraska — the option. While UVa ran some option under Tranquill in the late '80s and early '90s, that part of the offense was phased out when he left the program (he returned last season). Tranquill installed some option in the spring and definitely will use it this fall.

The most exciting position battle in the spring was for backup quarterback. Redshirt freshmen All-Americans Bryson Spinner and Matt Schaub played so equally that neither managed to claim the backup spot. But both impressed Welsh, who will have a tough decision to make in August training camp.

— Jerry Ratcliffe

VIRGINIA

A Healthy Thweatt A Must for the Cavs

Senior linebacker Byron Thweatt did so well playing "one-armed" last season, he can't wait to see what he can do with two arms in 2000.

If Virginia's defense returns to its stingy ways of the early and mid-1990s, Thweatt will be the key. He is the heart and soul of a much-maligned defense that was decimated last season with injuries and suspensions.

Even though the 6-2, 233-pound Thweatt played wounded all of 1999, but he still started all 12 games and earned second-team All-ACC honors.

He suffered a "stinger" to his left shoulder in the opening game and shook it off. But he got more stingers, which limited his ability to play full speed the entire season.

"That was the toughest thing I've ever had to go through as an athlete," Thweatt said. "Every week I was hurt, but I made myself go. I knew the defense needed me.

"It was very frustrating because I couldn't do the things I normally would have done. It was like playing with one arm tied behind my back. I had to be smarter. I had to take different angles to the ball. It was difficult, but it made me a better player."

Coach George Welsh tried to get Thweatt to sit out a game, but the outside linebacker refused. He still finished the season with 66 tackles, down from his average of 98 his first two seasons. He ranks 15th in UVa history in career tackles (262).

Thweatt stepped up as a more vocal leader last season, which is one reason he has been elected one of the team's captains for 2000. Growing up in Chesterfield, Va., in the shadows of former UVa linebacker James Farrior (N.Y. Jets), the two spend time in the offseason talking football.

"Because of all the adversity last season, we became closer as a team and I believe that will help us on the field this season," Thweatt said. "I can't wait to get started." ❑

BYRON THWEATT PLAYED WOUNDED ALL OF 1999. HE STILL STARTED ALL 12 GAMES AND EARNED SECOND-TEAM ALL-ACC HONORS.

PHOTO BY SCOTT HALLERAN/ALLSPORT

tried to beef up that side of the football.

With both starting corners having graduated and starting strong safety Chris Williams sitting out this season on academic suspension, the secondary cupboard is nearly bare. Jerton Evans, who was sensational as a true freshman free safety, returns as does senior corner Tim Spruill, who has plenty of starting experience.

But Welsh was so concerned with his defensive backfield that he moved senior wide receiver Ahmad Hawkins to corner in the spring and gave former UVa basketball player Chezley Watson a try at cornerback.

"I would hesitate to put [Watson] in against BYU," Welsh said of UVa's season-opening opponent. "But he could help us down the road."

Lantz will depend on Devon Simmons, back from a one-year suspension, as a corner along with Hawkins, and Shernard Newby, who got quality time at safety last season.

The defensive line has potential but not experience. Tackle Monsanto Pope started at defensive end last season, but was injured most of '99 before returning late in the campaign. Defensive ends Devon "Boo" Battle and Merrill Robertson got limited playing time. Robertson, who could play fullback, was moved to defense because of injuries and was so impressive during bowl practice that coaches decided to keep his athleticism and speed at end. If UVa can generate more pass rush this season, it may help the inexperienced secondary.

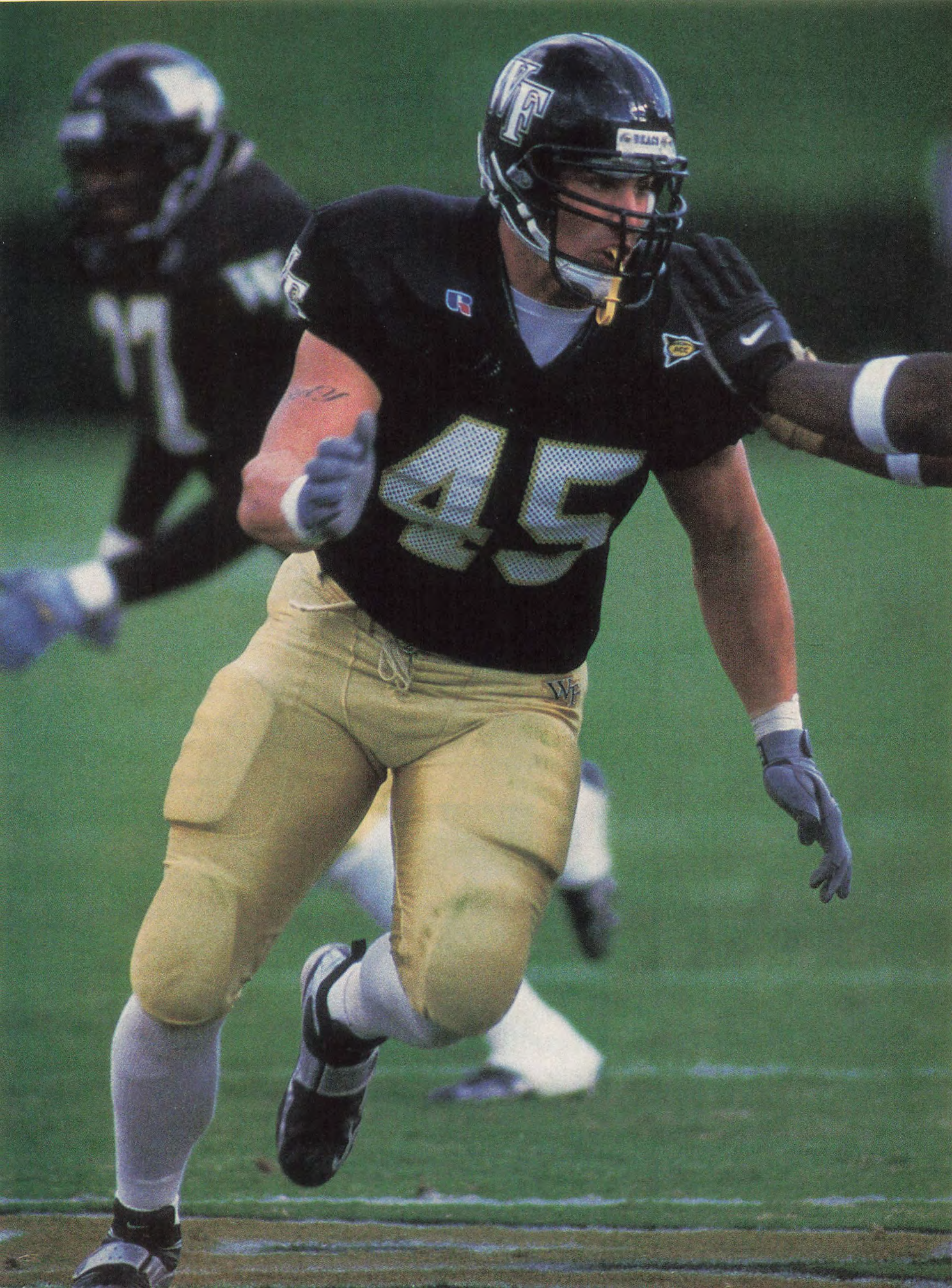
AN EMBARRASSED WELSH PROMISED IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARD TO PUT HIS ENTIRE PROGRAM UNDER A MICROSCOPE AND IF NEED BE, 'RE-INVENT THE PROGRAM.'

The linebacking corps will be the strength of the defense with senior outside linebacker Byron Thweatt, a rare, four-year starter in Welsh's program, leading the way as a co-captain. Thweatt will be helped by big-time hitter Yubrenal Isabelle in the middle and experienced Donny Green, returning from academic probation, on the other side. Sophomore Angelo Crowell was also sensational in the spring.

David Greene should give the Cavaliers a strong placekicker and kickoff man, while punter Mike Abrams needs to become more consistent.

Welsh, who has four years left on his contract, is excited about Virginia's renovated Scott Stadium, which received an $86 million facelift and expansion thanks to a $25 million gift from former Cavalier Carl Smith. The stadium has jumped from the third-smallest in the ACC to the third-largest behind Clemson and Florida State with a seating capacity this season of 61,500, a number that could jump to 64,000.

— Jerry Ratcliffe


45

WAKE FOREST DEMON DEACONS

History, Joyce wrote, is a nightmare from which we are trying to awaken.

Which is what fans of Wake Forest football have felt for 50 years.

One season after leading the upstart Deacons to a 7-5 record topped off by a victory over Arizona State in the Aloha Bowl, coach Jim Caldwell will attempt to do what only two of his predecessors — Cal Stoll and Bill Dooley — have accomplished since the ACC was opened for business in 1953. He will attempt to follow one winning season with another.

And never have the Deacons, as a member of the ACC, enjoyed three winning seasons in a row.

No one ever described Caldwell as a miracle worker, but he will clearly have to be to fulfill his oft-stated goal of turning Wake Forest into a consistent winner. Stoll, who brought the Deacons their only ACC title in 1970, couldn't do it. John Mackovic couldn't do it. Al Groh couldn't do it. And Dooley couldn't do it.

But Caldwell has insisted he can do it ever since he arrived.

"I've made this statement many times," Caldwell said back in 1993. "We came here to be champions. We did not come here to be 6-5 and be satisfied. My staff would not be satisfied with that. I'm not satisfied with that."

An objective observer would surmise that the deck is simply stacked too decidedly against a private school with an undergraduate enrollment of less than 4,000 competing in a conference dominated by larger, more established state institutions. Why else would Caldwell have been allowed to lose for six straight seasons, setting an ACC record for entrenched futility, before the Deacons finally finished above .500 by beating Georgia Tech and Arizona State in their last two games?

It was not because he has run a clean, orderly program, even though he has. It was not because he is popular with the administration and faculty, even though he is. And it was not because he is an impressive, upright individual, even though he is.

Instead it was because nobody at Wake Forest ever demanded any better. This is Wake Forest we're talking about, where success, when it has come, has come in cycles — long, painful cycles of losing interrupted by brief, all-too-fleeting cycles of success.

Did the most recent success cycle end at the Aloha Bowl? Considering that 26 seniors played their last game that day, it would appear so. Among those 26 seniors were the rocks that Caldwell built his program's foundation upon, stalwarts such as linebackers Dustin Lyman and Kelvin Moses, defensive tackle Fred Robbins, cornerback Reggie Austin, safety DaLawn Parrish, tailback Morgan Kane, wide receiver Jammie Deese and offensive linemen Sam Settar and Brian Wolverton.

But Caldwell maintains that the Deacons brought more back from Hawaii than the sweet memories of their 23-3 thumping of Arizona State. Adamant that the recruiting successes of recent seasons will pay off this fall, Caldwell said there's enough talent on hand for the Deacons to surprise the league with a second-straight winning season.

"You can't replace an end product," Caldwell said. "We don't have a guy coming in who will stand in and replace the size and speed and experience of a Dustin Lyman or Fred Robbins.

"What you miss, and what is tough to replace, is experience. But our talent level will improve. People may look at it and listen a little closer when I say that talent-wise, this particular team, from a physical standpoint, is further ahead than the group we had five years ago. They're bigger. They're stronger. They're faster. And it won't take them as long.

"We have a lot of work to do. There's no question. But I'm going to tell you something. These guys have the potential to get pretty good in a hurry."

Both the offense and defense were depleted, as 17 players listed as starters

Was Deacs' Success the Start of Something Big?

BRYAN RAY FINISHED SECOND IN THE CONFERENCE LAST SEASON WITH 10 SACKS.
PHOTO BY STEVE BEYER

at a glance

DEMON DEACONS

1999: 7-5 Overall; 3-5 ACC (T/5th)
COACH: Jim Caldwell , At Wake Forest 24-54, 7 years; Overall: 24-54, 7 years
RETURNING STARTERS: 6; 3 Offense, 2 Defense, Punter
PLAYERS TO WATCH: DE Bryan Ray; QB C.J. Leak; WR Ira Williams; C Vince Azzolina, CB Adrian Duncan.
PRIMARY STRENGTHS: Have to look close to find one. If Leak is as good as advertised, Deacons will be strong at QB. DE Ray and DT DaVaughn Mellerson anchor promising, if thin, defensive front. Good speed at skill positions.
POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: Rampant inexperience all over the depth chart. Players who have played complementary roles so far will have to prove capable of leading Deacons as starters on Saturdays. Lack of depth at virtually every position.
OVERVIEW: No coach in Wake Forest history has ever been able to win without a roster filled with experienced juniors and seniors. Caldwell's great challenge for 2000 is to become the first.

DEMON DEACONS RECRUITING

Name / Position	Size	Hometown	High School / College
ANDERSON, Jason WR	6-3, 180	Charlotte	David W. Butler
Rated No. 20 player in North Carolina by *SuperPrep* ◆ Had 954 receiving yards and 14 touchdowns as a senior ◆ Three-year starter ◆ Played in the North Carolina-South Carolina All-Star Shrine Game.			
BRACY, Caron DB	6-0, 197	Jacksonville, FL	Trinity Christian
Rated No. 65 player in Florida by *SuperPrep* ◆ Had more than 4,000 career rushing yards ◆ Played outside linebacker ◆ Projects as a strong safety in college ◆ All-State.			
BRAXTON, Warren WR/DB	5-11, 185	Madison Heights, VA	Amherst County
Honorable mention All-Region from *PrepStar* ◆ Runs 4.5 seconds for 40 yards.			
CLABO, Tyson OL	6-6, 295	Knoxville, TN	Farragut
Can play either guard or tackle ◆ *PrepStar* All-SEC Region ◆ Graded 89.9 percent on blocking assignments as a senior.			
DONAHUE, Brian LB	6-2, 205	Tulsa, OK	Cascia Hall
Helped team to a 13-1 record and state championship ◆ Runs 4.6 seconds for 40 yards.			
DRURY, Brandon DT	6-4, 275	Folkston, GA	Charlton County
Honorable mention All-Region by *PrepStar* ◆ Good speed off the ball.			
EASON, Rod OL	6-6, 280	Jacksonville, FL	Raines
Three-year starter for one of the best programs at the Florida 4A level ◆ Good pass blocking skills, projects as a left tackle ◆ Honorable mention Southeast Region by *PrepStar*.			
HAMLAR, Mike RB	6-2, 200	Roanoke, VA	Cave Springs
Rushed for 1,602 yards and scored 25 touchdowns as a senior ◆ Had 333 yards in one game, breaking the high school record ◆ Could end up as defensive back and/or returner ◆ Rated No. 19 player in Virginia by *SuperPrep*.			
HARRIS, Trevor RB	6-2, 210	St. Petersburg, FL	Shorecrest Prep
Honorable mention All-Region by *PrepStar* ◆ Rushed for 1,320 yards and 16 touchdowns last season ◆ Had 20 receptions for 520 yards and three scores ◆ Had nine sacks as defensive end.			
LINGRUEN, Blake OL/DL	6-4, 265	Liberty Center, OH	Liberty Center
Could end up on either side of the ball ◆ Honorable mention All-Region by *PrepStar*.			
MONTGOMERY, R.D. DE	6-6, 235	Wilmington	E.A. Laney
Despite playing with injuries most of the past two seasons, had 13 sacks as a junior and 14 as a senior ◆ Rated No. 11 player in North Carolina by *SuperPrep*.			

Name / Position	Size	Hometown	High School / College
NICHOLS, Jerome TE	6-2, 255	Glenn Dale, MD	Sidwell Friends
Runs 40 yards in 4.6 seconds ◆ Rated No. 4 tight end in the Atlantic Region by *PrepStar*.			
PALMER, Brad OL	6-3, 280	Rochester, NY	Webster
Projects as a guard in college ◆ *SuperPrep* rated No. 11 player in New York.			
PETTY, Jacob DL	6-5, 238	St. Augustine, FL	St. Augustine
Honorable mention All-Southeast Region by *PrepStar* ◆ Runs 40 yards in 4.8 seconds.			
RICHARDSON, Cardell LB/DE	6-2, 240	Centreville, VA	Centreville
SuperPrep rated No. 23 player in Virginia ◆ Runs 4.75 seconds for 40 yards ◆ Honorable mention All-Region by *PrepStar*.			
SALSICH, Joe DE/OT	6-4, 245	Annapolis, MD	Severn School
All-state as a senior ◆ Had 81 tackles, four sacks and forced two fumbles ◆ Broke up seven passes ◆ Runs 4.8 seconds for 40 yards ◆ Three-year starter at offensive tackle and defensive end.			
STATON, Fred RB	6-0, 200	West Charlotte	Charlotte
Ranked No. 9 player in North Carolina by *SuperPrep* as a senior ◆ Was the Offensive MVP in the North Carolina-South Carolina Shrine Bowl ◆ Rushed for more than 5,000 yards and 75 touchdowns in prep career.			
TEKAMPE, Ryan OL/DL	6-5, 270	Woodbridge, VA	Garfield
Prospect for either side of the line ◆ Honorable mention All-Region by *PrepStar*.			
WHITAKER, Jeff QB/K/P	5-11, 180	Ponte Vedra Beach, FL	Nease
Should end up on special teams, but may get a look at quarterback or another position ◆ Averaged just over 40 yards per punt last season ◆ Kicked a career-best 47-yard field goal.			
WILLIAMS, Quinton DB/RB	6-2, 185	Goldsboro	Rosewood
Will get a first look at safety ◆ Gained 1,298 rushing yards and scored 17 touchdowns as a senior ◆ Intercepted eight passes last season.			
WOYCHIK, Brian OL	6-6, 290	Poland, OH	Cardinal Mooney
Strong drive blocker ◆ Bench pressed 340 pounds.			
YOUNG, Anthony WR	6-3, 190	North Augusta, SC	North Augusta
Played quarterback in high school ◆ Passed for more than 1,300 yards last season with 11 touchdowns ◆ Gained more than 1,100 yards rushing ◆ Rated No. 28 player in South Carolina by *SuperPrep*.			

A LOOK AT THE DEMON DEACONS

RESULTS

(7-5, 3-5)

34	Army	15
7	Virginia	35
31	N.C. State	7
17	Rutgers	10
14	Maryland	17
10	Florida State	33
47	UAB	3
3	Clemson	12
19	North Carolina	3
35	Duke	48
26	Georgia Tech	23
	Aloha Bowl	
23	Arizona State	3

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Passing

Name	Att	Comp	Yards	Pct	TD	Int
Sankey	224	133	1496	59.4	9	9
Leak	18	6	59	33.3	1	1

Rushing

Name	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD
Kane	275	1161	4.2	54	10
Sankey	150	405	2.7	64	5
McCoy	32	128	4.0	17	0
Mughelli	16	80	5.0	19	0

Receiving

Name	No	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD
Deese	32	444	13.9	46	3
Lik	19	211	11.1	27	0
Caldwell	19	161	8.5	24	0
Kane	18	95	5.3	15	2

Defensive Leaders

Tackles: Moses 70; Parrish 69; Lyman 56; Ray 52.
Interceptions: Duncan 3; Moses 2; Carpenter 2; Austin 2.
QB Sacks: Ray 10; Robbins 5; Moses 2; Lyman 2; Hopkins 2.
Tackles For Loss: Ray 19; Robbins 15; Moses 8; Lyman 7.

SCHEDULE

Sept. 2	Appalachian State
Sept. 9	North Carolina
Sept. 16	at Clemson
Sept. 30	Virginia
Oct. 7	Vanderbilt
Oct. 14	at Georgia Tech
Oct. 21	at Maryland
Nov. 4	Duke
Nov. 11	Florida State
Nov. 18	at Navy
Nov. 25	at N.C. State

played their last collegiate game against Arizona State. But the defense, arguably as good in 1999 as it has ever been at Wake Forest, was particularly ravaged.

At least on offense there's the promise of a new star (sophomore quarterback C.J. Leak), the return of two of the Deacons' most accomplished linemen (junior center Vince Azzolina and junior tackle Michael Collins), a developing force at fullback (sophomore Ovie Mughelli) and the remains of a deep and talented receiving corps (junior Ira Williams and junior Jimmy Caldwell).

On defense, the only player to have proven himself to be a frontline ACC player is senior Bryan Ray, who finished second in the conference last season with 10 sacks.

A year ago, Caldwell bet the season — and very possibly his career as a head coach — on the belief that his defense would be strong, deep and experienced enough to control games. The defense came through, holding opponents to just 18.7 points and 320.4 yards a game.

However, Caldwell will need more explosiveness and firepower if the Deacons are to win games in 2000. The Deacons actually averaged fewer yards a game (317.1) than their opposition in 1999 and were able to get away with it.

The hope this season is that the varied skills of Leak, a 6-4, 235-pound quarterback wooed by everyone from Penn State to Syracuse to Notre Dame, will allow the Deacons to keep pressure on opposing teams and off their own defense. In 1999, Wake Forest ran the ball 533 times and passed 139 times.

Leak said fans can look for a more equal distribution this time around.

"We're going to be able to do all the things we did last year, and open it up more," Leak said.

"We've got a lot of great receivers and we can take advantage of those guys. We've got some great backs and we can take advantage of those guys. And our linemen are going to do a great job."

Kane, after three disappointing seasons, finally broke through in 1999 with 1,161 yards, becoming the first Deacon since 1993 to surpass the 1,000-yard mark. The best bets to succeed him at tailback are sophomores Jamie Scott and Tarence Williams, if they can hold off of incoming freshman Fred Staton.

Scott, at 6-0, 214, is considered the stronger runner; Williams, at 5-10, 181, is quicker and more elusive. But Staton, at 6-1, 210, is considered both strong and quick. The most valuable offensive player at the North-South Shrine Bowl, Staton was pursued by Ohio State, Virginia Tech and Tennessee after setting an all-time rushing record for high school runners in Charlotte's Mecklinburg County.

As good as Kane was last year, Mughelli might have been even better. Though he carried just 16 times for 80 yards, Mughelli, at 6-2, 232-pounds, was a fearsome blocker at the point of attack. The Deacons struggled last season when Mughelli was sidelined by bruised shoulders. The running game clicked when he was in the game.

How badly the Deacons will miss Jammie Deese, their leading receiver last season with 32 catches for 444 yards, will be determined by the rate of development of Williams (13 catches for 214 yards), Caldwell (19 catches for 161 yards), John Stone (seven catches for 75 yards), Fabian Davis (six catches for 80 yards) and incoming freshman Jason Anderson.

Caldwell, the coach's son who broke open the Aloha Bowl victory with a 56-yard touchdown reception, is considered the possession receiver, while Williams and Stone have greater speed.

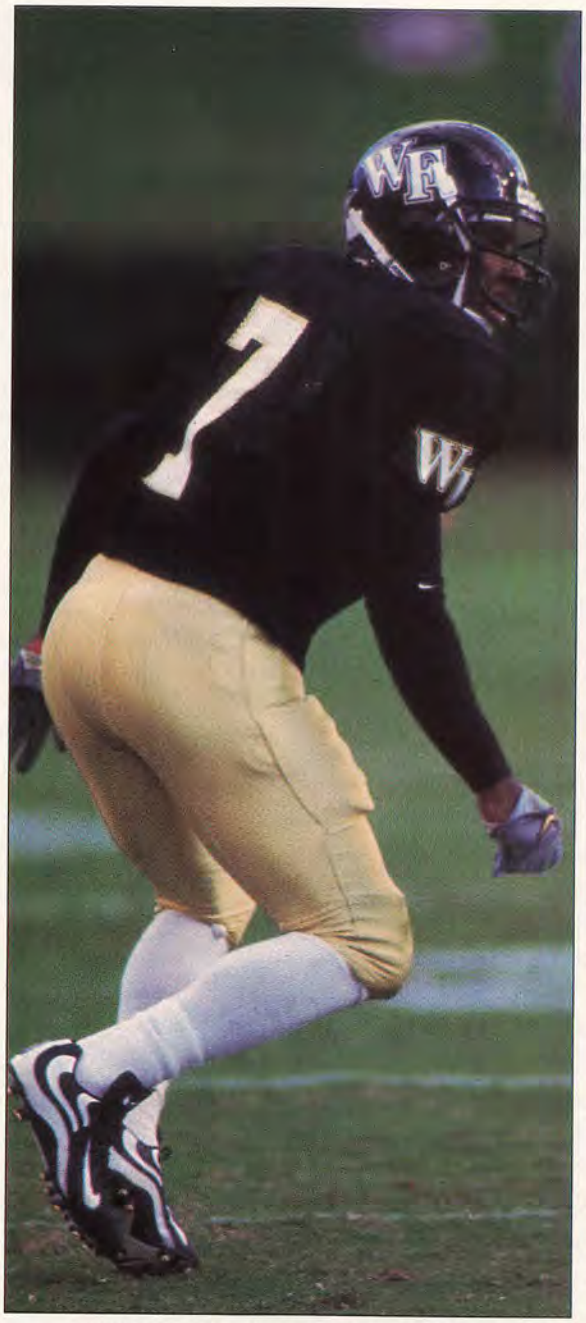
Although all three tight ends who played last season, James Lik, Ben Stafford and Willie Lam, are gone, Caldwell said the position is stronger than ever. He likes the size and capabilities of sophomore Ray Thomas (6-4, 244), sophomore Josh Warren (6-4, 230) and redshirt freshman Mark Moroz (6-4, 247).

"Our tight end position will be better than it's ever been," Caldwell said. "We've got three guys there who can play the game."

Azzolina and Collins, the two mainstays of the offensive line, both are coming off good seasons. Junior Michael Moosbrugger, expected to start at one guard, filled in ably during midseason when Settar was sidelined. Caldwell said he expects sophomore Blake Henry, a transfer from Northwestern, to man one tackle spot. The two leading contenders for the remaining guard spot are junior Marcus Kisner and senior Chris Blank.

"Azzolina is back in the middle, and he's very good," Caldwell said. "Michael Collins is a very good player. Moosbrugger played a lot of football for us last year. So even though we lose people, we've got a pretty strong nucleus of guys coming back.

"And we combine that with some guys who people have not had a chance to see. If they continue to progress, we can be an effective group."



JUNIOR ADRIAN DUNCAN ALTERNATED AT THE CORNERBACK POSITION LAST SEASON.

PHOTO BY STEVE BEYER

WAKE FOREST

DEMON DEACONS SPRING ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Class	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown
42	Jamaal Argrow	LB	So	6-1	205	Savannah, GA
15	Tyler Ashe	PK	Jr	5-11	178	Shelby
53	Vince Azzolina	C	Jr	6-4	302	Easton, PA
5	Bryan Beard	WR	Sr	5-10	165	East Bend
46	Nick Bender	LB	Sr	6-2	225	Nazareth, PA
55	Tim Bennett	C	So	6-4	292	McDonald, PA
68	Chris Blank	OG	Sr	6-5	272	Sewell, NJ
99	Nathan Bolling	DT	Jr	6-4	280	Swanton, OH
	Kellen Brantley	LB	Fr	6-3	227	Miami, FL
37	Matt Brennie	P	So	6-2	185	Highland, NY
24	Nick Burney	RB	Fr	6-2	218	Glen Allen, VA
3	Jimmy Caldwell	WR	Jr	5-10	176	Winston-Salem
25	Tehran Carpenter	DB	Jr	6-3	198	Amityville, NY
14	Obi Chukwumah	DB	Fr	6-2	180	Columbus, OH
25	Kevin Church	PK	Jr	5-10	175	Brentwood, TN
23	Michael Clinkscale	DB	Jr	6-1	199	Youngstown, OH
78	Marlon Curtis	OT	Sr	6-3	300	Waldorf, MD
79	Michael Collins	OT	Jr	6-6	318	Hickory
84	Fabian Davis	WR	So	5-11	179	Greenville, SC
22	Drew Dayton	DB	So	5-11	160	Spruce Pine
7	Adrian Duncan	DB	Jr	6-1	188	Dayton, OH
74	Kevin Gamble	OT	Jr	6-7	365	Washington, DC
69	Jonathan Helms	OG	Jr	6-3	280	Roanoke, VA
	Blake Henry	OL	So	6-6	275	Towson, MD
52	Marquis Hopkins	LB	Jr	6-2	248	Fayetteville
	Seth Houk	OL	Jr	6-3	300	Valley Center, KS
26	Elliott Ivey	DB	So	6-0	193	Cazenovia, NY
67	Chris Johnson	LS	Sr	5-11	197	Raeford
23	Jon Jordan	WR	Sr	6-1	184	West Jeferson
30	Chris Justice	DB	Jr	5-10	193	Greensboro
27	Ed Kargbookorogie	LB	Jr	6-3	215	Stafford, TX
50	Marcus Kisner	OG	Jr	6-5	268	Gastonia
10	Mike Koch	LB	Sr	6-2	216	Medford, NJ
85	Jax Landfried	WR	Jr	5-9	167	Pt. Pleasant Bch, NJ
12	C.J. Leak	QB	So	6-4	220	Charlotte
11	James MacPherson	QB	So	6-2	195	Tucson, AZ
27	Patrick Mariani	WR	So	5-8	168	N. Palm Beach, FL
1	Chris McCoy	RB	Sr	5-7	216	Winston-Salem
91	Milo McGuire	DE	Jr	6-4	278	Massillon, OH
75	Michael Moosbrugger	OG	Jr	6-7	304	Buckhingham, PA
96	Da'Vaughn Mellerson	DT	Sr	6-5	298	Baltimore, MD
88	Chris Modelski	WR	Sr	6-1	200	Poland, OH
32	Ovie Mughelli	FB	So	6-2	232	Charleston
44	Matt Myers	RB	Jr	6-2	233	Kittanning, PA
	Marcus Nesbitt	LB	Fr	6-1	220	Clinton, MD
93	Calvin Pace	DE	So	6-6	243	Douglasville, GA
21	Karl Pendergrass	DB	Jr	5-6	134	Spartanburg
48	Ricky Perez	DB	Fr	6-1	170	Bedford, OH
45	Bryan Ray	DE	Sr	6-3	250	Wheaton, MD
51	Chad Rebar	OG	Fr	6-3	290	Throop, PA
52	Justin Redemer	OG	So	6-5	273	Ridgefield, CT
20	Chris Rolle	QB	So	5-11	188	Tampa, FL
6	Jamie Scott	RB	So	6-0	214	Concord
92	Montique Sharpe	DE	So	6-3	265	Washington, DC
29	Walter Simmons	DB	So	6-0	190	Savannah, GA
36	Keyshorn Smith	DB	Sr	5-10	177	Lumberton
97	Roderick Stephen	LB	So	6-4	237	Colonial Hghts, VA
2	John Stone	WR	Jr	5-11	182	Somers Point, NJ
89	Ray Thomas	TE	So	6-4	244	Hamilton, Ontario
58	Masanori Toguchi	C	So	6-3	286	Charlotte
	David Walters	OG	So	6-3	294	Marlton, NJ
86	Josh Warren	TE	Fr	6-4	230	Big Stone Gap, VA
35	Dion Williams	LB	Fr	6-1	217	Stone Mtn., GA
81	Ira Williams	WR	Jr	6-2	202	Montclair, NJ
18	Tarence Williams	RB	So	5-10	181	Wilmington

Roster and depth chart subject to change.

2000 PROJECTED DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE	
QB	C.J. Leak, So/Ricky Perez, Fr
RB	Jamie Scott, So/Tarence Williams, So
FB	Ovie Mughelli, So*/Rhamen Love-Lane, Jr
WR	Ira Williams, Jr/John Stone, Jr
WR	Jimmy Caldwell, Jr/Jax Landfried, Jr
TE	Ray Thomas, Sr/Josh Warren, Fr
LT	Chris Blank, Sr/Blake Henry, So
LG	Mike Moosbrugger, Jr/Marcus Kisner, Jr
C	Vince Azzolina, Jr*/Tim Bennett, So
RG	Tim Bennett, So/Jonathan Helms, Jr
RT	Michael Collins, Jr*/Seth Houk, Jr
PK	Tyler Ashe, Jr/Kevin Church, Jr

DEFENSE	
DE	Calvin Pace, So/Roderick Stephen, So
DT	Montique Sharpe, So/Da'Vaughn Mellerson, Sr
DT	Nathan Bolling, Jr/Masanori Toguchi, So
DE	Bryan Ray, Sr*/Roderick Stephen, So
OLB	Ed Kargbookorogie, Jr/Kellen Brantley, Fr
ILB	Marquis Hopkins, Jr/Nick Bender, Sr
ILB	Jamaal Argrow, So/Marcus Nesbitt, Fr
CB	Adrian Duncan, Jr/Elliott Ivey, So
CB	Keyshorn Smith, Sr*/Chris Justice, Jr
SS	Michael Clinkscale, Jr/Mike Koch, Sr
FS	Walter Simmons, So/Obi Chukwumah, Fr
P	Matt Brennie, So/James MacPherson, So

SPRING UPDATE

Head coach Jim Caldwell has turned the duties of offensive coordinator over to Eddie Williamson, who was hired over the winter to coach the offensive line.

Caldwell assumed the role for just one season, saying he was determined the Deacons would develop a solid running game in 1999. The move worked, as Wake Forest, which ranked last in the nation in 1998 with 65.4 yards a game, rushed for 175.7 yards a game last season.

Williamson, a veteran of 24 years in coaching, coached at Wake Forest previously in the early 1990s. He was the offensive coordinator of the 1992 Deacons who beat Oregon in the Independence Bowl to finish 8-4.

• Williamson is only one of three new coaches on Caldwell's staff. Tony Pierce was hired from West Virginia to coach the defensive backs and share the defensive coordinator duties with defensive line coach Theo Lemon. John Klacik was hired from Youngstown State to coach the quarterbacks. After seven years as the quarterbacks coach, Jamie Barresi will coach the wide receivers in 2000.

The Deacons lost three coaches from last year's staff. James Bell, last year's defensive coordinator, moved to Indiana; George Belu, last year's offensive line coach, left for Ohio State; and Gerald Carr, last year's wide receiver coach, was not retained.

• Concerned about the lack of numbers in the wake of the loss of 26 seniors, the Deacons brought in five players in January who were eligible for spring drills. The five were Seth Houk, a 6-3, 300-pound tackle from Garden City (Kan.) Community College; David Walters, a 6-3, 285-pound guard from Iowa; Mark Moroz, a 6-4, 245-pound tight end from Welland, Ontario; Marcus Nesbitt, a 6-1, 220-pound linebacker from Hargrave Military Academy; and Kellen Brantley, a 6-3, 227-pound linebacker from Hargrave Military Academy.

Houk, Nesbitt and Brantley were listed second-team at the close of spring practice.

• Masanori Toguchi, a 6-3, 286-pound sophomore, and Chad Rebar, a 6-3, 290-pound redshirt freshman, were moved from the offensive line to bolster a defensive line hit hard by graduation. Toguchi was listed second-team at defensive tackle at the close of spring practice.

— Dan Collins

C.J. LEAK COMPLETED SIX OF 18 PASSES FOR 59 YARDS AND CARRIED 13 TIMES FOR 27 YARDS AS A FRESHMAN.

PHOTO BY JERRY WOLFORD

WAKE FOREST

Confident Leak Set to Take Control

Unavailable to the media last season as a freshman, quarterback C.J. Leak will now have more to say than any Deacon player as to how Wake Forest fares this season.

Hailed as the savior of the program when he spurned the likes of Notre Dame, Penn State and Syracuse to sign with Wake Forest, Leak spent a season of apprenticeship behind senior Ben Sankey. But with Sankey gone, a new day has dawned in Deacon Land.

It's the day of C.J. And coach Jim Caldwell — who said he imposed the gag order on Leak to avoid a quarterback controversy — said it should be a bright day indeed.

"He's got all the intangibles," Caldwell said. "He's a hard worker. He's got a passion for the game. He's smart. He works at it on the field as well as in the classroom. He's a good leader, because he leads by example. But he's also a vocal guy who wants to be good.

"He doesn't just want to be good. He wants to be a champion. That's the thing that you'll sense. He doesn't want to be average. He wants to be a champion. He's special."

Leak displayed impressive raw ability and not that much else as a freshman, when he completed six of 18 passes for 59 yards and carried 13 times for 27 yards. But after spending spring practice as the No. 1 quarterback, and beefing up to 6-4, 235 pounds for the pounding he is certain to take, Leak will be the player Caldwell builds his offense around.

He has the speed and power to put pressure on the corners and the vision, awareness and arm strength to pass out of the pocket.

"I consider myself multiple — I can do it all," Leak said. "I'm very coachable. I do whatever the coach asks. I know my talents and skills allow me to do that.

"So it doesn't matter what I'm put in. I can go in there and get the job done."

For Wake Forest to succeed this season, he'll have to. ❑

Last year's defense was both experienced and deep. This year's defense will be neither. The Deacons are counting on enough promising young players, such as sophomore defensive ends Calvin Pace and Montique Sharpe, junior linebackers Ed Kargbookorogie and Marquis Hopkins, sophomore outside linebackers Roderick Stephens and Jamal Argrow and junior safeties Tehran Carpenter and Michael Clinkscale to develop into frontline players by early in the season.

If they don't, the Deacon defense could quickly revert back to its 1998 form, when Wake Forest finished last in the ACC in total and scoring defense.

The defensive front, led by Ray and defensive tackles DaVaughn Mellerson and Nathan Bolling, should be strong but thin. Although injuries have plagued both Mellerson and Bolling, both, when healthy, have had their moments.

No position was wiped out by graduation losses more than linebacker. Hopkins and Nick Bender played last season, but Hopkins became a spare part once Lyman returned from a knee injury and Bender could never seem to please James Bell, the departed defensive coordinator.

Even with the loss of Austin, Parrish and David Moore from the defensive secondary, Caldwell said there's no lack of talent in the secondary. Senior Keyshorn Smith and junior Adrian Duncan alternated at one cornerback position last season, and Clinkscale and Carpenter will have the first crack at winning the starting nod at the safeties.

> "THE PICTURE I'M TRYING TO PAINT IS THAT THERE'S NOT A VOID OF TALENT. IT MAY BE YOUNG, BUT THERE'S ALSO A MIXTURE OF GOOD PLAYERS THERE WHO HAVE PLAYED A LOT OF FOOTBALL FOR US THAT I THINK CAN DEVELOP INTO A GOOD CORE.

Caldwell is also anxious to get two recruits, Caron Bracy and Quinton Williams, into camp to find out if they're as good as advertised.

"Now our defensive backs are young," Caldwell said. "But I can tell you something, the group back there is the best group, collectively, we've ever had when they're all convened together in the fall. And it's just a matter of maturity and coming along."

The same could be said for Wake Forest as a whole. And how fast they mature and how fast they come along should determine if the Deacons' 1999 season was just another isolated success story that comes along once or twice a decade or a sign that Caldwell was right all along.

Maybe he did come to Wake Forest to coach champions.

"The picture I'm trying to paint is that there's not a void of talent," Caldwell said. "It may be young, but there's also a mixture of good players there who have played a lot of football for us that I think can develop into a good core. "It's just going to take us a little time."

He earned that time with last year's success. Now let's see what he can do with it.

— Dan Collins

VIRGINIA TECH HOKIES

When Virginia Tech opens the 2000 football season Aug. 27 at home against Georgia Tech in the Black Coaches Association Classic, Hokies coach Frank Beamer will look across the field and see his son, Shane, on the opposing sideline.

more difficult in 2000, and not just because Shane Beamer, who played for the Hokies last year, will be a Georgia Tech graduate assistant in the season opener in the BCA Classic.

Will Tech start this year with the BCA and again wind up in the BCS? Don't

the Year award and first when ESPN handed out the ESPY Award to its top college football player.

Vick's rise to stardom matched Tech's climb from No. 13 in preseason polls to No. 2 in the final rankings. The Hokies might not have as much ground to make

Beamer Looking for the Right Mix

It just goes to prove that change in college football is relative.

Every college football season has a new face to it. Just ask Beamer, who started 1999 against James Madison and wound up taking a postgame telephone call at the Sugar Bowl from Bill Clinton.

The Tech coach didn't make it to the White House, but he was knocking on the door. The Hokies played for the national championship for the first time in school history, and led Florida State in the fourth quarter before losing 46-29.

While in New Orleans, Beamer never ventured from his team's hotel across the street to Harrah's Casino, but he did roll sevens and 11s. An 11-0 regular season produced Tech's seventh bowl trip in seven years and seven national coaching awards for Beamer.

All that means is that a repeat will be

think the Hokies' chances are severely abbreviated. However, the loss of 22 seniors and two other starters who left early for the NFL draft has Beamer concerned about developing that elusive quality — team chemistry.

"I think that part right there is going to be the toughest part we've got," said Beamer, set to begin his 14th season in Blacksburg. "(In 1999), I thought our team leadership was fantastic. The togetherness, the coaches-players relationship … it was an easy year for a coach."

The '99 season also was the year Blacksburg nearly saw its name changed to "Vicksburg." Dazzling quarterback Michael Vick held his audience captive from Day 1 en route to a season that saw the freshman left-hander finish third in the Heisman Trophy balloting, second in voting for Associated Press Player of

up in 2000.

"I don't expect us to do much losing," Vick said.

The Hokies should do plenty of scoring. After leading Division I-A in 1999 at 40.4 points per game, Tech returns eight starters to its offense including four of five in the interior line.

Tech's key losses were center Keith Short, split end/punt returner Ricky Hall and tailback Shyrone Stith, who stunned the coaching staff by declaring for the NFL draft following the Sugar Bowl, then almost failing to get picked.

Despite the loss of Hall, a thorn in Miami's side during Tech's last two wins over the Hurricanes, the Hokies might trot out the most talented corps of receivers in school history.

Flanker Andre' Davis, perhaps college football's fastest man, averaged a whopping 27.5 yards per catch last season including a 49-yard TD in the Sugar Bowl. Also back are split end Emmett Johnson, who started six games last year, and backup flanker Terrell Parham and split end Shawn Witten.

Someone will have to step back to make room for three freshmen who all could be superstars — Andrae' Harrison, Ernest Wilford and Deon Provitt, although Provitt might get a look at free safety. Harrison was a prep teammate of Vick's at Warwick High School in Newport News, Va.

Vick accounted for 322 yards total offense against Florida State, but he left

MICHAEL VICK'S RISE TO STARDOM MATCHED TECH'S CLIMB FROM NO. 13 IN PRESEASON POLLS TO NO. 2 IN THE FINAL RANKINGS.

PHOTO BY TOMASSO DEROSA/TDSI

at a glance

HOKIES

1999: 11-1 Overall; 7-0 Big East (1st)

COACH: Frank Beamer — At Virginia Tech: 88-60-2, 13 years; Overall: 130-83-4, 19 years

RETURNING STARTERS: 11; 8 Offense, 3 Defense

PLAYERS TO WATCH: QB Michael Vick, RT Dave Kadela, FL Andre' Davis, DE Nathaniel Adibi, ROV Cory Bird, SE Andrae Harrison, FL Ernest Wilford

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: Quarterback Michael Vick is college football's most exciting player, and four starters return to the offensive line. The receiving corps, led by Andre' Davis, could be the best in Tech history.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: There is little experience defensively, and the Hokies must replace four-year starters at placekicker and punter.

OVERVIEW: As long as Vick stays healthy, the sky's the limit offensively. However, with non-conference games against Georgia Tech, East Carolina and Virginia, and a trip to Miami, the road will be tougher.

the Superdome battered and bloody. If Tech is intent on reducing the number of hits Vick takes as a sophomore, the Hokies might take a page from FSU and use more four-receiver sets this season. Don't look for a drastic change.

"I think it will be a big part of our offense, but I never want to get away from running the football," Beamer said. "We don't want to get away from that fullback-tailback set."

Why should he, even with Stith gone and backup Andre' Kendrick trying to regain his academic eligibility? Kendrick, who had two TDs in the Sugar Bowl, and sophomore Lee Suggs figure to split the tailback duties, while fullbacks Jarrett Ferguson and Cullen Hawkins both return. The real strength of this year's team is where coaches like it most, the offensive line. Starting tackles Dave Kadela and Anthony Lambo return along with guards Matt Lehr and Josh Redding. In addition, all three of Tech's top tight ends are back, led by starter Derek Carter.

Tech needed Vick's run-for-cover effort against FSU, but the Hokies still put up 502 yards. If Tech's backup blockers can emerge to give the starters more rest this fall, the efficiency level will rise.

"The big question is who some of those second-team guys are going to be," Beamer said.

The Tech coach has more question marks to punctuate discussion about the holes in the Hokies' defense. Tech allowed the fewest points per game (10.5) in Division I-A last year, and the Hokies were third in rushing defense (75.9).

A big reason for those numbers was the blitzkrieg scheme employed by defensive coordinator Bud Foster, spearheaded by All-American ends Corey Moore and John Engelberger.

Moore, who won the Lombardi and Nagurski awards, was the Big East Conference Defensive Player of the Year after recording 17 quarterback sacks as a senior. The pros liked Engelberger, who played both end and tackle, better. He was a second-round pick by San Francisco in the NFL draft.

Tech fans lamenting the loss of Moore and Engelberger need not forget: Moore generated little acclaim when he first transferred to Tech from Holmes (Miss.) Community College, and Engelberger even less when he came to campus as a walkon no other Division I-A program wanted.

The focus will be on their replacements, however.

"That's kind of the neat thing about this deal, seeing new guys coming in and trying to make a name for themselves," Beamer said.

One name that should be unforgettable in a year or two is that of redshirt freshman end Nathaniel Adibi, another big-time Tech recruit from the Tidewater area of Virginia. Adibi, whose Nigerian-born father is a mathematics professor at Hampton University, has all the tools to become Tech's next defensive superstar.

Fans tuning in for Tech's numerous television games this fall will check their programs for the rest of the Hokies' defensive starters.

"I think we've only got one guy actually starting in the same position he started in last year," Beamer said.

Correct enough. Rover Cory Bird, whose fumble return for a touchdown lit

ROVER CORY BIRD, WHOSE FUMBLE RETURN FOR A TOUCHDOWN LIT THE FUSE IN TECH'S ASTONISHING 62-0 ROUT OF SYRACUSE LAST YEAR, IS THE ONLY STARTER BACK IN HIS OLD SPOT.

PHOTO BY TOMASSO DEROSA/TDSI

the fuse in Tech's astonishing 62-0 rout of Syracuse last year, is the only starter back in his old spot.

However, schemes play a big role in the college game. Foster, who turned down the defensive coordinator job at Florida after the 1998 season, brings his ball of confusion back and the veteran assistant has plenty of cerebral types to make it work.

In an attempt to recoup some of the team speed the defense lost with the departure of the entire front four, two linebackers and early NFL departure Ike Charlton at cornerback, Tech has moved Nick Sorensen from free safety to outside linebacker and has shifted Ben Taylor inside from OLB.

"I think we've got some really good people," Beamer said. "I think it's going to work out OK."

At tackle, last year's backups, Chad Beasley and David Pugh, should have starting jobs nailed down. The other end position is a question mark, where seldom-used veteran Ron Cook and freshman Cols Colas are in the picture.

Things didn't develop as well in the offseason for Derrius Monroe.

A projected starter and potential star at end, Monroe was indicted Jan. 14 on a charge of felony cocaine distribution and automatically suspended from the team under university guidelines. If the charge is dropped or Monroe is found not guilty, he could return to the team only if the Tech administration gives its approval.

Charlton's loss was more expected. The junior cornerback's decision to opt for early NFL entry was no surprise. Junior Larry Austin and sophomore Ronyell Whitaker are poised to move into the cornerback spots occupied last year by Charlton and Anthony Midget.

Willie Pile appears ready to inherit the free safety spot and should bring some athleticism to the table. Jake Houseright, a highly touted signee two years ago, looks ready to take over at one of the two inside linebacker spots if he can shake free of knee problems that have plagued him since late in his senior year in high school.

Tech went to the junior college ranks for tackle Channing Reed and defensive back Kevin McAdam, who both figure to play a role.

One player whom Beamer wants to use somewhere is Provitt, a redshirt freshman from Warren, Ohio, who picked Tech over Michigan. Tech's logjam at receiver might allow the Hokies to use Provitt at free safety.

"He'd like to be a two-way player before it's over," Beamer said. "If he's not going to figure in at free safety, he'll go back to wide receiver."

Beamer's understated concern is on special teams, where Tech not only lost kicker Shayne Graham and punter Jimmy Kibble — a pair of All-Big East picks — but also saw both snappers and holder Caleb Hurd depart as well.

Carter Warley is filling the shoes of Graham and Kibble, literally.

He wears one of Graham's size 8 1/2s on his right foot and one of Kibble's on the left foot. Warley is the leading contender to win the placekicking job. Freshman Robert Peaslee will get the first crack at punter. Tech's deep snapper last season was Shane Beamer, who grew up in Lane Stadium toting the cord attached to his dad's headset. The cord officially has been cut now that the younger Beamer has jumped ship to another Tech, the one in Atlanta where former Virginia Tech athletic director Dave Braine serves as the Yellow Jackets' AD.

The made-for-TV season opener, plus a Thursday night ESPN game Sept. 7 at East Carolina, means the Hokies will play three games in 12 days. Tech also plays a Thursday night home game in October against West Virginia, five days after a matchup with Temple.

Beamer, whose program has profited hugely from television exposure, isn't complaining, but he is wary about the trip to ECU and not just because a 1989 game in Greenville left him in the ICU following a procedure to clear a blocked artery.

"The thing that's an issue is we're playing three games in 12 days," Beamer said. "But all three games (Georgia Tech, ECU and West Virginia) have a place. Playing East Carolina on Thursday, that's where you like it because of the exposure. It's tough, but that's a part of it."

Most Division I-A coaches would gladly trade places with Beamer, who has averaged more than nine victories per season over the lpast seven years while taking Tech to three BCS bowls including a victory over Texas in the Sugar Bowl.

Growth continues in Blacksburg, where a new Jumbotron replay board should be ready this season in Lane Stadium, which will be expanded to more than 65,000 seats in the near future.

Beamer, who has six years remaining on his contract, likely will stay at Tech through the end of his career unless a persistent itch to test himself in the NFL becomes too much to ignore.

Even though part of Beamer's immediate family will be on the other side of the field for the season opener, the atmosphere the Tech coach has with his players is a special kinship. After the Sugar Bowl loss, President Clinton had to be content with listening to Muzak while Beamer took a long time saying so long to the most special team in Hokies history.

"You needed a mop in there," said Kibble, one of the departing seniors. "I bawled. Coach Beamer was like a second father for five years. It was a real tearjerker."

— Robert Anderson

1999 RESULTS

(11-1, 7-0)

47	James Madison	0
31	UAB	10
31	Clemson	11
31	Virginia	7
58	Rutgers	20
62	Syracuse	0
30	Pittsburgh	17
22	West Virginia	20
43	Miami	10
62	Temple	7
38	Boston College	14
	Nokia Sugar Bowl	
29	Florida State	46

2000 SCHEDULE

Aug.	27	Georgia Tech
Sept.	2	Akron
Sept.	7	at East Carolina
Sept.	16	Rutgers
Sept.	30	at Boston College
Oct.	7	Temple
Oct.	12	West Virginia
Oct.	21	at Syracuse
Oct.	28	Pittsburgh
Nov.	4	at Miami
Nov.	11	at Central Florida
Nov.	25	Virginia

EAST CAROLINA PIRATES

East Carolina coach Steve Logan doesn't mind hearing his team mentioned as a serious contender for the Conference USA championship, but he's been around long enough to know how much that's worth.

"This conference has really made some strides," Logan says, "and it's gotten to the point that where, truly, anything can happen any Saturday."

That's one reason why you won't find Logan getting all giddy about C-USA's decision to move the annual Southern Miss-East Carolina game from mid-October to Nov. 25, the final weekend of the C-USA season. C-USA officials are hoping the move will create a championship game between the Golden Eagles and the Pirates, who went 9-3 and earned a trip to the Mobile Alabama Bowl in 1999.

"Every year that game usually says 'yes' or 'no' about who's going to win the conference," Logan says, "and Southern Miss has gotten the best of us the last few years. We need to change that, but we've got a lot of other games to play before we can even start thinking about that game.

"We haven't won any games as we sit here. When you subtract the senior class we had last year, we are a different team, mentally and emotionally. We have to get over that pat-on-the-back. We had a fine season. I'm proud of that. We have to restart the energy and enthusiasm to play the game (this fall) against a schedule that is probably more difficult than last year."

Long before ECU's Nov. 25 date at Southern Miss, the Pirates will play a schedule that includes non-conference games against Virginia Tech, Syracuse, West Virginia and Duke, as well as C-USA road games at Memphis and Louisville.

The Pirates will take on that challenge with a team that returns 16 starters and a number of experienced reserves who appear ready to step into full-time playing roles.

On offense, 20 of the first 22 return, including quarterback David Garrard, running back Jamie Wilson, split end Marcellus Harris and four of five starters on the offensive line, including center Sherwin Lacewell.

"What this does is allow us to go out and 'add to' rather than starting over and re-teaching a bunch of stuff," Logan says. "Hopefully, we can stay fundamental, but at the same time, expand the package and the kids will be able to understand what we are doing."

The continued maturation of Garrard will be a key to expanding the offensive package. Garrard was a raw talent when he started five of the six final games as a freshman in 1998, and made tremendous impact as a sophomore. Garrard started all 12 games, completed 58 percent of his passes for 2,359 yards and 14 touchdowns, and earned second-team all-conference honors.

Garrard, a 6-3, 235-pound junior, also packs a punch as a runner, with 493 rushing yards and eight touchdown runs last season. With Garrard's progress and experience, don't be surprised if Logan adds a few new wrinkles to ECU's multiple offense.

"I'm not afraid to utilize his running ability at all," Logan says. "David is so physical that I really don't have that much concern about him getting hurt. The addition of a little bit of option we put in the game last year really helped us. David's very effective with that, as well as throwing the football."

Pirates Set for Another Title Run

Garrard is surrounded by playmakers, including Wilson, a versatile back who ran for 865 yards and caught 28 passes for 266 yards in '98; Harris, who caught 24 passes for 375 yards; and Keith Stokes, a 5-8, 180-pound stick of dynamite who can make big plays as a receiver or return specialist.

The real key, however, will be the play of the offensive line. The Pirates only lost three games, but Logan was unhappy with the play of his line in those two losses.

"We got whipped up front against UAB and Texas Christian," Logan says. "We lost to Southern Miss, but I didn't think our line got whipped too badly in that game.

"We played about 10 kids on the offensive line, and that was a positive for us, too. We've got to continue to stress to those guys that they've got to be a physical unit."

Despite all that returning talent, it was

at a glance

PIRATES

1999: 9-3 Overall; 4-2 C-USA (2nd)

COACH: Steve Logan — At East Carolina: 51-40, 8 years

RETURNING STARTERS: 16; 9 Offense, 6 Defense, 1 Kicker

PLAYERS TO WATCH: QB David Garrard, RB Jamie Wilson, WR-PR Keith Stokes, C Sherwin Lacewell, OLB Pernell Griffin, NG Mbayo Ahmadu

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: With 20 of 22 of their top offensive players returning and Garrard improving with experience, the Pirates will be balanced and productive on offense; three returning starters and solid depth make the Pirates tough up front defensively.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: With the loss of MLB Jeff Kerr and CBs Kevin Monroe and Forrest Foster, the Pirates must replace key leaders and playmakers. Another tough schedule will put the Pirates to the test.

OVERVIEW: The schedule is rugged and some big holes must be filled on defense, but this is an experienced, well-coached team that takes a positive approach to such challenges. Look for leadership to emerge as ECU makes a run at the C-USA championship.

the defense that paved the path to a nine-win season in '99. Under first-year defensive coordinator Tim Rose, ECU improved in nearly every category, including scoring defense (improving from 61st in the nation to 13th), total defense (65th to 38th), rushing defense (95th to 41st) and pass efficiency defense (67th to 10th). The defense also came through with three touchdowns of its own.

"Coach Rose re-ignited us defensively," Logan says. "Our scoring defense is the bottom-line number. If we can stay in that category, it's going to give us a chance to win football games."

In addition to the return of six starters, the Pirates played nine defensive linemen at three positions, as well as six outside linebackers and eight defensive backs on a regular basis. "So the kids are going to know what's going on," Logan says. "They've been there. They've played meaningful snaps."

The key, then, will be replacing valuable players who played key roles and provided much-needed leadership. Veterans such as linebacker Jeff Kerr and cornerbacks Kevin Monroe and Forrest Foster will be hard to replace, and the ECU coaches are looking for that vocal leadership from outside linebacker Pernell Griffin, who enters his junior season as an All-American candidate.

"No. 1, he's a returning all-league player and he plays very well," Rose says. "No. 2, he plays with tremendous passion. I mean, this guy likes to play, likes to practice, likes to compete, and it means an awful lot to him.

"If you watch what Pernell does, he's an awfully hard worker on the practice field and on the game field."

If the Pirates get that leadership from returning starters such as Griffin and senior linemen Mbayo Ahmadu, Marc Yellock and Devone Claybrooks, the next step will be finding a new middle linebacker and new cornerbacks. At linebacker, the most likely candidates are Greg LeFever, a juco transfer who made an immediate impact in the spring, and sophomore Reggie Hamphill and redshirt freshman Brandon Oakley. The Pirates are also waiting for the arrival of juco transfer Mark Strickland in August.

At the corners, the ECU coaches like what they saw this spring in sophomores Kelly Hardy and Jerome Steward, but both players will be tested early and often this season.

"I think those young corners may have to get baptized a time or two," Logan says. "They're going to be as good as Kevin and Forrest one of these days, but they don't have the experience yet. They've got the talent. So I think probably they'll have one thrown over their head at an unfortunate time at some point, but that kind of thing happens to every corner eventually."

In addition to all those high expectations for the offense and the defense, Logan expects more of what he got last year from a special teams unit that produced four touchdowns and an All-American in punter Andrew Bayes. Unfortunately, Bayes is gone, but they still have Stokes returning punts and sophomore kicker Kevin Miller is a likely candidate to take over the punting duties. Miller converted 11 of 15 field goals as a freshman, despite missing four games with a pulled quad muscle, but he will be pushed for the kicking job by redshirt freshman Bryce Harrington, who will handle the kickoffs.

With so many key players returning from a team that defeated Miami, North Carolina State, West Virginia, South Carolina and Duke and climbed as high as 18th in the national rankings, it's no surprise that C-USA watchers are already talking about East Carolina's Nov. 25 showdown at Southern Miss.

Just don't expect Logan to talk about the end when he's still concerned about the means to that end.

"If we go out and play as hard as we played last year, we can contend for it," Logan says. "Southern Miss is going to be the frontrunner, and Louisville is going to be a contender, and I hope we are. We've got a chance if we do what we can do."

— Richard Scott

RESULTS

(9-3, 4-2)

30	West Virginia	23
27	Duke	9
21	South Carolina	3
27	Miami	23
33	Army	14
22	Southern Miss	39
52	Tulane	7
19	Houston	3
17	UAB	36
48	Cincinnati	34
23	N.C. State	6
	Mobile Alabama Bowl	
14	TCU	28

2000 DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

QB	David Garrard, Jr*/Richard Alston, So
FB	Jamie Wilson, Sr*/Leonard Henry, Jr
HB	Keith Stokes, Sr*/Marcellus Harris, Sr
SE	Marcellus Harris, Sr*/Arnie Powell, So
FL	Torey Morris, So/Delayo Dodd, Jr
TE	Rashon Burns, Sr*/Corey Floyd, Jr
LT	Shaun Rose, Jr/Phoenix Evans, So
LG	Aaron Walker, Jr*/Phoenix Evans, So
C	Sherwin Lacewell, Sr*/James Bell, Sr
RG	Chris Nelson, Jr*/Senter Currin, So
RT	Samien Jones, Sr*/Bobby Parker, Sr
PK	Kevin Miller, So* or Bryce Harrington, Fr

DEFENSE

DE	John Williamson, So*/Antwane Yelverton, So
DT	Devone Claybrooks, Sr*/Marc Yellock, Sr
NG	Mbayo Ahmadu, Sr*/Ivan Buter, Jr
DT	Chris Howell, Sr/Ty Hunt, Sr
OLB	Bernard Williams, Jr*/Kevin Ward, Jr
LB	Pernell Griffin, Jr*/Carlos Ochoca, Sr
LB	Eric Reyes, Sr/Reggie Hamphill, So
CB	Kelly Hardy, So/Dale Simmons, So
CB	Jerome Steward, So/Charlie Robinson, Jr
SS	Anthony Adams, So*/Dominique Hatcher, So
FS	Antwan Adams, So/Kevin Jackson, Fr
P	Kevin Miller, So

SCHEDULE

Sept.	2	at Duke
Sept.	7	Virginia Tech
Sept.	16	Tulane
Sept.	23	Syracuse
Oct.	7	at Memphis
Oct.	14	Army
Oct.	19	at Louisville
Oct.	28	UAB
Nov.	11	Houston
Nov.	18	at West Virginia
Nov.	25	at Southern Miss

WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTAINEERS

"Shock the nation!" The words seemed to echo throughout an empty Mountaineer Field at the end of every practice for the whole spring. The West Virginia football team would gather around coach Don Nehlen for a brief talk and then, as they broke ranks to head for the showers or the weight room, they would speak as one.

"Shock the nation."

Once a proud football program, West Virginia was embarrassed by the depths to which it fell last year. A 4-7 record told part of the story. A 33-0 loss at Maryland was yet another chapter.

But it was more than that. There was a toughness missing that once was the building block of WVU football, an ability to beat up on other teams, especially on the defensive side of the ball.

That was gone and getting it back is what the year 2000 is all about.

"We are going to shock the nation," senior linebacker David Carter said following the spring game.

To the West Virginia Mountaineers, this is not idle chatter. They honestly believe they have rebuilt their defense with players who fly to the ball, players like Carter and rush linebacker Chris Edmonds and a freshman linebacker named Grant Wiley. They honestly believe they will return to their running roots on offense with tailback Avon Cobourne, the nation's leading freshman rusher from a year ago, working behind an experienced offensive line.

Finally, they know the schedule gives them a chance to "shock the nation", as they put it. Seven home games and of the four road games, three would appear totally winable being at Rutgers, at Temple and at Pittsburgh.

Only a Thursday night engagement in Blacksburg, Va., would look like a bump in the road.

The schedule helps with Syracuse, Miami and East Carolina at home, plus a Notre Dame team that doesn't strike fear in the minds of America any longer.

Yes, if West Virginia is ever going to "shock the nation," this is the year and Nehlen, a wise veteran coach, knows it.

He's seen it before. The year was 1993. His team was not expected to be a powerhouse, coming off a 5-4-2 season in which it won just two of its final seven games.

But there was magic ... and a soft schedule. On New Year's Day, West Virginia found itself 11-0 and facing Florida for a chance at a national title. The final score of 41-7 in favor of Florida showed how much WVU overachieved that year.

Why couldn't it happen again? The pieces are there, even down to a situation where Nehlen might wind up using two quarterbacks ... using, not alternating.

Marc Bulger's graduation after a record-setting career that went down in the flames of injuries his senior season would seem to put backup Brad Lewis in charge. Lewis played well in Bulger's absence last year and he will almost certainly have the job when the season opens on Sept. 2 at home against Boston College.

"I paid my dues. I've been around here three years. I think it's my turn. I'm more than certain that I'm ready to lead the team and prove we're better than 4-7," he said.

But lefthander Scott McBrien, a redshirt freshman from DeMatha High, opened a lot of eyes and quarterback coach Bill Stewart has gone on record saying that McBrien should play often, "not just at mop up time."

One thing is for sure, they have people who catch the ball in Khori Ivy; diminutive but fleet Antonio Brown; newcomer Phil Braxton; Carlos Osegueda; and A.J. Nastasi, whose brother was a starter at Penn State.

Cobourne rushed for 1,139 yards last year, one of just 25 freshmen in NCAA history to rush for 1,000 yards, but he came out of it unimpressed with himself.

"I definitely surprised myself," Cobourne said. "I didn't think going into the season that I was going to play at all. I end up a 1,000-yard rusher. That was a big improvement to me."

Mountaineers Just Might 'Shock the Nation'

at a glance

MOUNTAINEERS

1999: 4-7 Overall; Big East 3-4

COACH: Don Nehlen — At West Virginia: 134-78-4, 20 years; Overall: 195-123-8, 29 years

RETURNING STARTERS: 13; 7 Offense, 4 Defense, Kicker, Punter

PLAYERS TO WATCH: RB Avon Cobourne, WR Khori Ivy, C Rick Gilliam, RLB Chris Edmonds

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: Running game with Cobourne working behind a strong offensive line should be better. Defensive speed should make that unit much improved.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: The placekicking situation wasn't decided during spring and there is no experienced replacement for departed Jay Taylor. Tryouts were still being held in two-a-days for a fullback. Inexperienced secondary. Brad Lewis must still prove himself at quarterback.

OVERALL: Despite losing outstanding talent to the NFL, WVU may be much improved. Its attitude is that it wants to prove last year was a fluke. The schedule favors a return to a bowl. Inexperience, however, could drag it down a notch when it faces the big shots in the Big East.

Now he believes he can build on that year, a year that included a 133-yard performance against Virginia Tech, a team allowing just 60 yards a game rushing at the time.

"I want to be better than I was," he said. "I shocked myself last year. I want to shock myself again this year. I'm not trying to sit back and relax and get another 1,000 yards. I want to do something I've never done before.

"My team goal is to have the best line and be the best running back in the nation. We're not rookies anymore. We expect to win and go out there and dominate. I hope everybody else feels like I feel. We can't be stopped. I think we're going to have one of the best offenses in the nation."

There it is again.

"Shock the nation!"

The West Virginia running game did suffer one severe blow when Quincy Wilson, who was to be Cobourne's backup, underwent surgery to repair a torn ACL. He's expected to miss much or all of the season, putting the backup job on Cooper Rego, a transfer from Notre Dame.

The offense, though, wasn't what needed to be rebuilt. It was the defense that gave up 27 or more points in seven of 11 games last year.

"We're trying to play offense on defense this year," Nehlen said. "I really think our defense is a lot more aggressive, a lot better defense than I saw last year."

It begins with speed and that takes us back to Carter and his partner in crime, Edmonds.

They believe they are so capable of dominating games they gave themselves the nickname of "Thunder and Lighting."

"The way we come off the corners," crowed Carter to Edmonds following a dominating spring, "it's like lightning and thunder. Yeah, that's it. Lightning and Thunder. You be the lightning and I'll be thunder."

The defense has been built for speed. It could be that not one player will start in the same position he started in for last year's Pitt game. Many are gone and those who remain have changed spots.

Only Kyle Kayden, the starting middle linebacker last year, is back at the same spot and he's fighting for his life with Corey McIntyre.

Edmonds moved from strong linebacker to rush, Carter taking over the strong side with the freshman Wiley moving into Barrett Green's weak linebacker hole.

"This kid is special," said Nehlen of Wiley. "He may not always do the right thing, but he's always doing something."

The defensive line was completely rebuilt with Antwan Lake moving from end to tackle, David Upchurch moving to noseguard and Jason Davis taking over at end.

The line is ultra quick, the idea being to try and get an improved pass rush.

The secondary, scorched often — and seldom involved in a tackle anywhere near the line of scrimmage — has been supercharged. Nehlen was extremely unhappy with the play of his safeties last year and this year has turned matters over to Rick Sherrod and Shawn Hackett, two players who say they love to mix it up.

At the corners, he's replaced Perlo Bastien and Nate Terry with Richard Bryant and Lewis Daniels, a pair of inexperienced but fleet defenders.

"Everyone thinks this team is based on offense," said Edmonds. "But we have the defense."

And Carter adds:

"You just look in our eyes and you see the fire."

"Four-and-seven will do that to you. We pulled together. There are no individuals here. We are worrying only about winning."

If somehow things come together as the Mountaineers are hoping they will, the fun could return to Morgantown. Nehlen, 63, is thinking of retiring some time soon, but wants to go out on a good note.

Who knows, maybe even win his first bowl game since 1984.

That would "Shock the nation!"

— Bob Hertzel

RESULTS

(4-7, 3-4)

23	East Carolina	30
43	Miami, Ohio	27
0	Maryland	33
7	Syracuse	30
28	Navy	31
62	Rutgers	16
20	Temple	17
20	Miami	28
20	Virginia Tech	22
17	Boston College	34
52	Pittsburgh	21

2000 DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

QB	Brad Lewis, Jr/Scott McBrien, Fr
TB	Avon Cobourne, So*/Cooper Rego, Jr
FB	Ashanti Barbee, Fr/Jeremy Knapp, Jr
WR	Antonio Brown, Jr*/Shawn Terry, Jr
WR	Khori Ivy, Sr*/Carlos Osegueda, Sr
TE	Sean Berton, So/Brad Cusick, Jr
LT	Matt Wilson, Sr*/Brad Knell, Jr
LG	Wes Ours, Sr*/Terry Dixon, Sr
C	Rick Gilliam, Sr*/Tim Brown, Fr
RG	Jason Brooks, Sr/Mike Enick, Sr
RT	Tanner Russell, Sr*/Lance Nimmo, So
PK	Zach Anglin, Jr*/Jon Ohliger, Sr

DEFENSE

DE	Mark Thurston, Jr*/Jason Davis, Fr
DT	Antwan Lake, Sr*/Tim Love, So
NG	David Upchurch, So/John Paricka, Jr
LB	Chris Edmonds, Sr*/Jamien Harvey, Jr
LB	Corey McIntyre, Sr/Kyle Kayden, Jr*
LB	David Carter/James Davis, So
LB	Grant Wiley, Fr/Ben Collins, So
CB	Richard Bryant, Jr/Lance Frazier, Fr
CB	Lewis Daniels, Fr/Brian King, Fr
FS	Ricky Sherrod, Jr/Ben Meighan, So
SS	Shawn Hackett, Jr/Cassel Smith, Fr
P	Mark Fazzolari, So*/Zach Anglin, Jr

SCHEDULE

Sept.	2	Boston College
Sept.	16	Maryland
Sept.	23	Miami
Sept.	28	at Temple
Oct.	7	Idaho
Oct.	12	at Virginia Tech
Oct.	21	Notre Dame
Nov.	4	Syracuse
Nov.	11	at Rutgers
Nov.	18	East Carolina
Nov.	24	at Pittsburgh

MARSHALL THUNDERING HERD

Some Mid-American Conference teams see this as their chance to knock off the Thundering Herd, which has dominated the MAC since jumping up from Division I-AA three seasons ago.

The hope is drawn from the departure of all-everything quarterback Chad Pennington, who earned a trip to the 1999 Heisman Trophy presentation.

Of course, many thought the same thing when the Herd lost Randy Moss. But, in the past two years the Herd has thundered on, winning 25 of 26 games and two league titles, achieving a No. 10 final ranking last season.

Anyone who thinks Marshall is content with its successes should note that the school expanded its stadium from 30,000 to 40,000 seats this year, anticipating a full house on a weekly basis.

This much appears certain: Marshall might be competing in the Mid-American Conference, but the Herd plays at a level few teams in the league can aspire to.

Western Michigan did it for a while last season in the conference title game, actually leading the Herd on their home field into the second half, but the Broncos were eventually reeled in and done in.

Marshall went to another Motor City Bowl, which was a public flogging of BYU, while the rest of the league sat home.

Marshall's success in 2000 is predicated on replacing Pennington. Byron Leftwich will get first crack.

A 6-5, 224-pound redshirt sophomore, Leftwich possesses physical tools superior to Pennington's; but won't display the intangibles that made Pennington special until he faces a live rush.

In spring drills, where he could have lost his grip on the job, Leftwich emerged as the leader. In the spring game, he completed 18 of 26 passes for 155 yards and a touchdown in one half of action.

He was also picked twice and got off to a Pennington-like slow start, taking a sack, badly overthrowing two receivers and bobbling a snap that resulted in a six-yard loss in his first series. After that initial comedy of errors, Leftwich got an earful from coach Bobby Pruett and found another gear.

He finished spring just as Pruett had hoped he would — confident and ready to run the team's high-octane offense. Should Leftwich lose his edge, Pruett won't hesitate to replace him with Memphis transfer Stephen Galbraith or one of three heralded freshmen.

Whoever ends up under center will have talented receivers, including senior Nate Poole, who caught 71 passes for 1,122 yards and nine touchdowns a year ago and has been picked as the *Lindy's* MAC Most Valuable Player this season. Lanier Washington, Brian Greenleaf and junior college transfer Chris Ray also have big-play ability.

Junior college All-American Ernest Pitts figures to be the featured back, but will have help from talented youngsters Brandon Carey and Chanston Rogers.

They'll run behind an offensive line that returns stellar right guard Jimmy Cabellos, but that is unsettled elsewhere. Steve Sciullo moves from right tackle to left tackle and new starters are at right tackle, left guard and center. Gregg Kellett returns at tight end.

The defense that embarrassed Brigham Young in the 1999 Motor City Bowl features speed and experience.

The leader of the unit is Paul Toviessi, a fearsome pass rusher who works with rugged nose tackle Jimmy Parker and first-year starters Antony Beckett and Ralph Street to give Marshall a quick, solid front four. Street led the team in sacks a season ago despite coming off the bench.

Danny Derricott and Maurice Hines, All-American candidates, are as good as any in the nation and better than anything else MAC receivers will see in league play.

Derricott can be brilliant, but has a tendency to gamble — making and giving up big plays. Hines is as fast as any player in the league and is the best pure cover guy in the MAC.

— Tim Stephens

Reloading Herd Thunder After Fourth Title

at a glance
THUNDERING HERD

1999: 13-0 Overall; 8-0 MAC East (1st)

COACH: Bobby Pruett — At Marshall and Overall: 50-4, 4 years

RETURNING STARTERS: 12; 5 Offense, 6 Defense, Punter

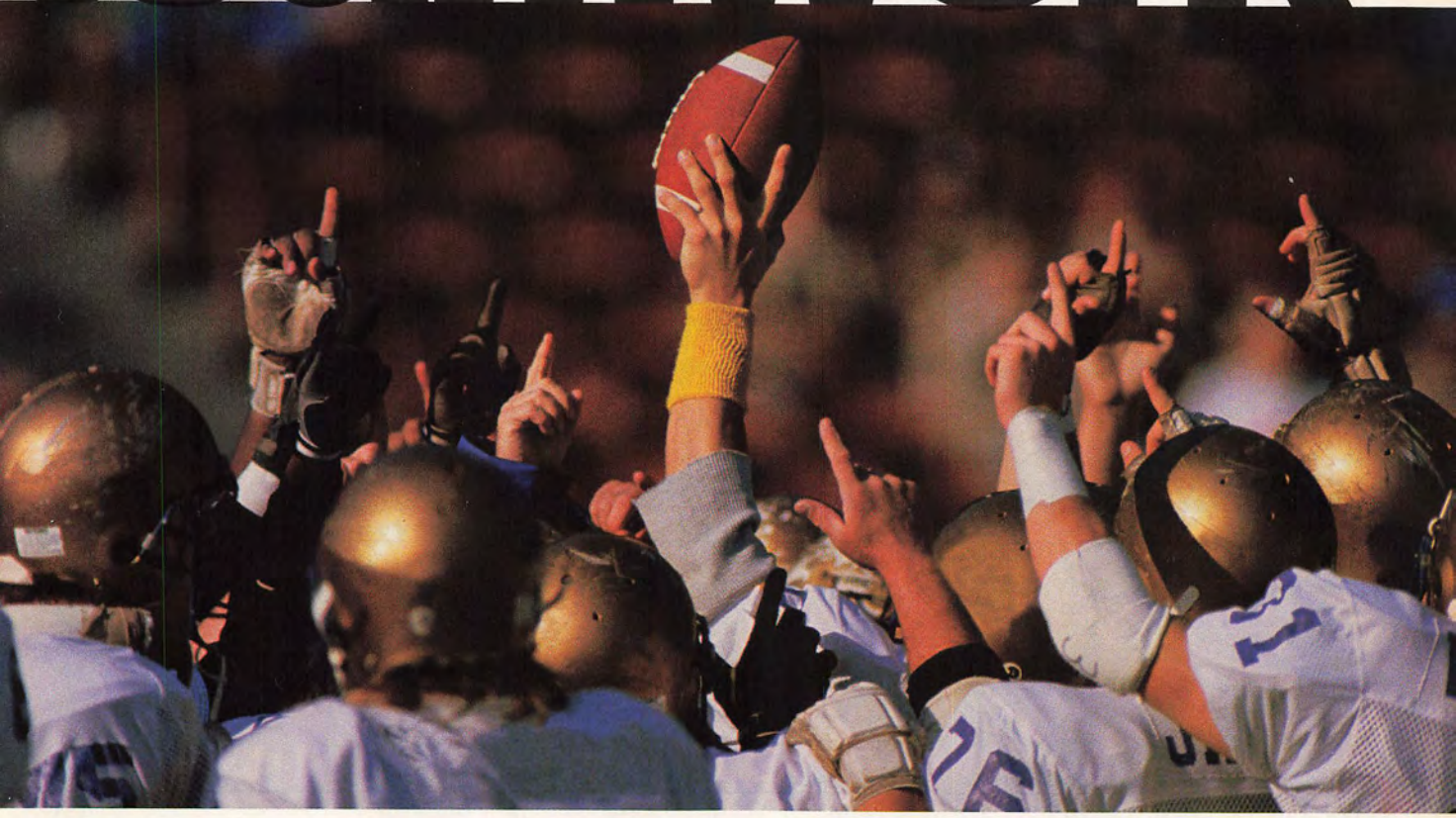
PLAYERS TO WATCH: QB Byron Leftwich, RB Ernest Pitts, G Jimmy Cabellos, WR Nate Poole, CB Danny Derricott, CB Maurice Hines, DE Paul Toviessi, LB Max Yates, P Curtis Head

PRIMARY STRENGTHS: Marshall has won three straight MAC titles with speed. Herd remains the fastest team in the MAC. Derricott and Hines are outstanding corners. The Herd returns a deep stable of wide receivers.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS: Can Leftwich, an inexperienced sophomore, replace Chad Pennington at quarterback? Inexperience at linebacker and on the offensive front could cause problems.

OVERVIEW: If Marshall finds a capable quarterback, the Herd has enough talent to win an unprecedented fourth league championship. Pruett turned down a six-year, $9.9-million offer from Houston, an indication that he thinks Marshall can return to the Top 25 again. A schedule including Michigan State and North Carolina will be a test.

teamwork



For a team to excel, all the players must work together as one. At **HEALTHSOUTH**, we understand the value of teamwork. As the nation's leading provider of ambulatory surgery, diagnostic imaging and rehabilitative healthcare services, we know that rehabilitation is an integral part of a complete recovery. Our team of physicians and therapists works together to formulate an individualized rehabilitation plan designed to return each patient to his or her optimum level of performance.

At **HEALTHSOUTH**, we get you off of the sidelines and back on the field.

HEALTHSOUTH®

888 476-8849

healthsouth.com

©HRC 2000
HSPI 62809

1999 ACC Leaders

INDIVIDUAL

PASSING EFFICIENCY	ATT.	CMP.	PCT.	YDS.	TD	Rating POINTS
Joe Hamilton, Georgia Tech	305	203	66.6	3060	29	175.0
Chris Weinke, Florida State*	377	232	61.5	3103	25	145.1
Dan Ellis, Virginia*	258	156	60.5	2050	20	145.0
Woodrow Dantzler, Clemson*	195	111	56.9	1501	9	131.7
Ben Sankey, Wake Forest	224	133	59.4	1496	9	120.7
Calvin McCall, Maryland*	179	93	52.0	1264	5	117.1
Jamie Barnette, N.C. State	338	171	50.6	2320	13	115.6
Kevin Thompson, Duke	80	35	43.8	411	3	94.3

INTERCEPTIONS	G	NO.	YDS.	TD	IPG
Robert Carswell, Clemson*	11	6	72	0	0.6
Lewis Sanders, Maryland	11	6	37	0	0.6
Darius Clark, Duke	11	5	102	0	0.5
Alex Ardley, Clemson*	11	5	64	0	0.5
Errol Hood, North Carolina*	11	5	21	1	0.5
Lloyd Harrison, N.C. State	12	5	0	0	0.4
Shawn Forte, Maryland*	10	4	13	0	0.4
Derrick Gibson, Florida State*	11	4	40	0	0.4
Dextra Polite, Clemson	11	4	28	0	0.4
Chris Hope, Florida State*	11	4	17	0	0.4

RUSHING	CAR.	YDS.	AVG.	YDSPG
Thomas Jones, Virginia	334	1798	5.4	163.5
LaMont Jordan, Maryland*	266	1632	6.1	148.4
Morgan Kane, Wake Forest	275	1161	4.2	105.6
Travis Zachery, Clemson*	184	827	4.5	82.7
Sean Gregory, Georgia Tech*	172	837	4.9	76.1
Travis Minor, Florida State*	180	815	4.5	74.1
Joe Hamilton, Georgia Tech	154	738	4.8	67.1
Woodrow Dantzler, Clemson*	137	580	4.2	64.4
Rahshon Spikes, N.C. State	140	636	4.5	53.0
Ray Robinson, N.C. State*	112	438	3.9	39.8

SCORING	TD	XP	FG	PTS.	PTPG
Sebastian Janikowski, Florida State	0	47	23	116	10.6
Travis Zachery, Clemson*	16	0	0	96	9.6
LaMont Jordan, Maryland*	17	0	0	102	9.3
Thomas Jones, Virginia	17	0	0	102	9.3
Peter Warrick, Florida State	12	0	0	72	8.0
Luke Manget, Georgia Tech*	0	53	11	86	7.8
Brian Kopka, Maryland*	0	32	16	80	7.3
Sean Gregory, Georgia Tech*	13	0	0	78	7.1
Matthew Burdick, Wake Forest	0	26	16	74	6.7
Sims Lenhardt, Duke	0	17	14	59	6.6

TOTAL OFFENSE	PLAYS	YDS.	YDSPG
Joe Hamilton, Georgia Tech	459	3798	345.3
Chris Weinke, Florida State*	408	2994	272.2
Woodrow Dantzler, Clemson*	332	2081	231.2
Dan Ellis, Virginia*	322	2081	208.1
Jamie Barnette, N.C. State	419	2343	195.3
Ben Sankey, Wake Forest	374	1901	172.8
Calvin McCall, Maryland*	258	1520	168.9
Thomas Jones, Virginia	336	1798	163.5
LaMont Jordan, Maryland*	269	1692	153.8
Morgan Kane, Wake Forest	275	1161	105.6

PUNTING	NO.	AVG.
Brian Schmitz, North Carolina	74	47.8
Keith Cottrell, Florida State*	44	42.8
Brian Morton, Duke*	73	42.8
Brooks Barnard, Maryland*	42	42.1
Donnie Scott, Virginia	55	40.6
Ryan Romano, Clemson	59	40.1
Scott Earwood, N.C. State	76	38.2
Matt Brennie, Wake Forest*	53	36.6

RECEIVING	G	CT.	YDS.	YDSPG
Peter Warrick, Florida St.	9	71	934	103.8
Kelly Campbell, Georgia Tech*	11	69	1105	100.5
Rod Gardner, Clemson*	11	73	1009	91.7
Dez White, Georgia Tech	11	44	860	78.2
Scottie Montgomery, Duke	11	51	819	74.5
Koren Robinson, N.C. State*	12	48	853	71.1
Richmond Flowers, Duke	11	42	649	59.0
Brian Wofford, Clemson	11	54	646	58.7
Ron Dugans, Florida State	11	43	644	58.6
Chris Coleman, N.C. State	10	41	487	48.7

TEAM

TOTAL OFFENSE	PLAYS	YDS.	YDSPG
Georgia Tech	822	5603	509.4
Florida State	820	4683	425.7
Clemson	830	4440	403.6
Virginia	784	4427	402.5
Maryland	732	4125	375.0
N.C. State	795	3898	324.8
Wake Forest	775	3488	317.1
Duke	787	3394	308.6
North Carolina	752	3043	276.6

TOTAL DEFENSE	PLAYS	YDS.	YDSPG
Florida State	747	3351	304.6
Wake Forest	742	3524	320.4
Clemson	789	3716	337.8
N.C. State	882	4313	359.4
Maryland	782	4112	373.8
North Carolina	774	4114	374.0
Virginia	789	4340	394.5
Georgia Tech	832	4552	413.8
Duke	841	4649	422.6

KICKOFF RETURNS	NO.	YDS.	AVG.
Maryland	28	740	26.4
Duke	39	916	23.5
Wake Forest	31	712	23.0
Georgia Tech	43	980	22.8
North Carolina	35	709	20.3
Virginia	30	602	20.1
Florida State	29	570	19.7
Clemson	32	619	19.3
N.C. State	35	659	18.8

SCORING OFFENSE	G	PTS.	AVG.
Georgia Tech	11	448	40.7
Florida State	11	412	37.5
Virginia	11	324	29.5
Clemson	11	315	28.6
Maryland	11	292	26.5
Wake Forest	11	243	22.1
N.C. State	12	244	20.3
Duke	11	217	19.7
North Carolina	11	186	16.9

SCORING DEFENSE	G	PTS.	AVG.
Florida State	11	174	15.8
Wake Forest	11	206	18.7
Clemson	11	236	21.5
Maryland	11	260	23.6
North Carolina	11	272	24.7
N.C. State	12	302	25.2
Virginia	11	302	27.5
Georgia Tech	11	333	30.3
Duke	11	363	33.0

PUNT RETURNS	NO.	YDS.	AVG.
Florida State	37	459	12.4
N.C. State	28	317	11.3
Georgia Tech	30	335	11.2
Wake Forest	34	367	10.8
Virginia	23	236	10.3
Duke	26	264	10.2
Maryland	36	341	9.5
Clemson	20	148	7.4
North Carolina	27	85	3.1

RUSHING OFFENSE	CAR.	YDS.	YDSPG
Maryland	492	2545	231.4
Georgia Tech	503	2486	226.0
Virginia	477	2106	191.5
Wake Forest	533	1933	175.7
Clemson	463	1727	157.0
North Carolina	494	1585	144.1
Florida State	397	1351	122.8
N.C. State	437	1361	113.4
Duke	366	810	73.6

RUSHING DEFENSE	CAR.	YDS.	YDSPG
Florida State	387	1087	98.8
Wake Forest	403	1335	121.4
Maryland	414	1390	126.4
Clemson	449	1491	135.5
N.C. State	520	1887	157.3
Virginia	472	1831	166.5
Duke	467	1996	181.5
Georgia Tech	479	2015	183.2
North Carolina	485	2098	190.7

NET PUNTING	NO.	AVG.	RET.	YDSPR	AVG.
Florida State	46	42.7	16	107	40.3
North Carolina	81	47.7	45	654	39.6
Georgia Tech	31	42.8	13	102	39.5
Duke	75	41.7	34	252	38.3
Clemson	59	40.1	28	273	35.4
Maryland	69	37.6	21	157	35.3
Wake Forest	60	36.8	20	133	34.6
Virginia	58	39.2	26	289	34.2
N.C. State	76	38.2	39	383	33.2

PASSING OFFENSE	ATT.	COMP.	YDS.	YDSPG
Florida State	423	250	3332	302.9
Georgia Tech	319	208	3117	283.4
Clemson	367	227	2713	246.6
Duke	421	196	2584	234.9
N.C. State	358	182	2537	211.4
Virginia	307	179	2321	211.0
Maryland	240	116	1580	143.6
Wake Forest	242	139	1555	141.4
North Carolina	258	117	1458	132.5

PASSING DEFENSE	ATT.	COMP.	YDS.	TD	INT.	POINTS
Florida State	360	190	2264	13	22	105.3
Clemson	340	177	2225	10	19	105.6
Wake Forest	339	181	2189	10	13	109.7
N.C. State	362	195	2426	12	15	112.8
North Carolina	289	154	2016	11	13	115.4
Georgia Tech	353	195	2537	15	9	124.5
Duke	374	212	2653	21	16	126.2
Maryland	368	218	2722	20	15	131.2
Virginia	317	176	2509	19	15	132.3

TURNOVERS	+FUM.	INT.	TOTAL	-FUM.	INT.	TOTAL	GAME
Clemson	7	19	26	7	10	17	0.8
Maryland	13	15	28	8	11	19	0.8
Florida State	7	22	29	4	17	21	0.7
Wake Forest	9	13	22	6	10	16	0.6
Virginia	8	15	23	7	12	19	0.4
North Carolina	11	13	24	8	14	22	0.2
N.C. State	11	15	26	15	9	24	0.2
Duke	8	16	24	8	22	30	-0.6
Georgia Tech	3	9	12	12	12	24	-1.1

CONVENIENT, FAST, SAME DAY PAYOUTS...
NO HASSLES, ABSOLUTELY FREE!
COURTEOUS, PROFESSIONAL ENGLISH-SPEAKING REPRESENTATIVES
AT YOUR SERVICE 24 HOURS A DAY,
EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR.
ALL ACCOUNTS COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL AND
PROTECTED UNDER INTERNATIONAL SECRECY LAWS.
HIGH LIMITS... LOW MINIMUMS...
AND ALL ACCOUNTS ARE UPDATED INSTANTLY
YOUR PERSONALIZED ACCOUNT NUMBER
ALLOWS YOU TO PLACE WAGERS
THROUGH OUR CALL CENTER,
OUR ON-LINE CASINO,
OR
"CLICK-AND-BET"
NO VIG / NO JUICE
IN SEPTEMBER!
GUARANTEED BEST
PARLAYS & TEASERS
IN THE INDUSTRY...
TWO TEAM: 13 1/2 TO 5
THREE TEAMS: 6 TO 1
FOUR TEAMS: 11 TO 1
10% BONUS PAID
ON INITIAL DEPOSIT
...OR VISIT OUR
WEBSITE TODAY AND
RECEIVE A $25 CHIP
ON THE HOUSE!
EMPRESS
SPORTS BOOK & ON-LINE CASINO
WE RULE
THE SPORTS GAMING WORLD!
1-888-564-4345
www.empressgaming.com
EMERGENCY BACK-UP NUMBER 800-511-8721

DISCOVER THE WOLF.

Under Age
Our Policy. Our Practice.™
No Tobacco

DISCOVER THE VALUE:
Big Taste. Bigger savings.™

WARNING:
THIS PRODUCT MAY CAUSE GUM DISEASE AND TOOTH LOSS

©2000 Custom Blends, Inc.